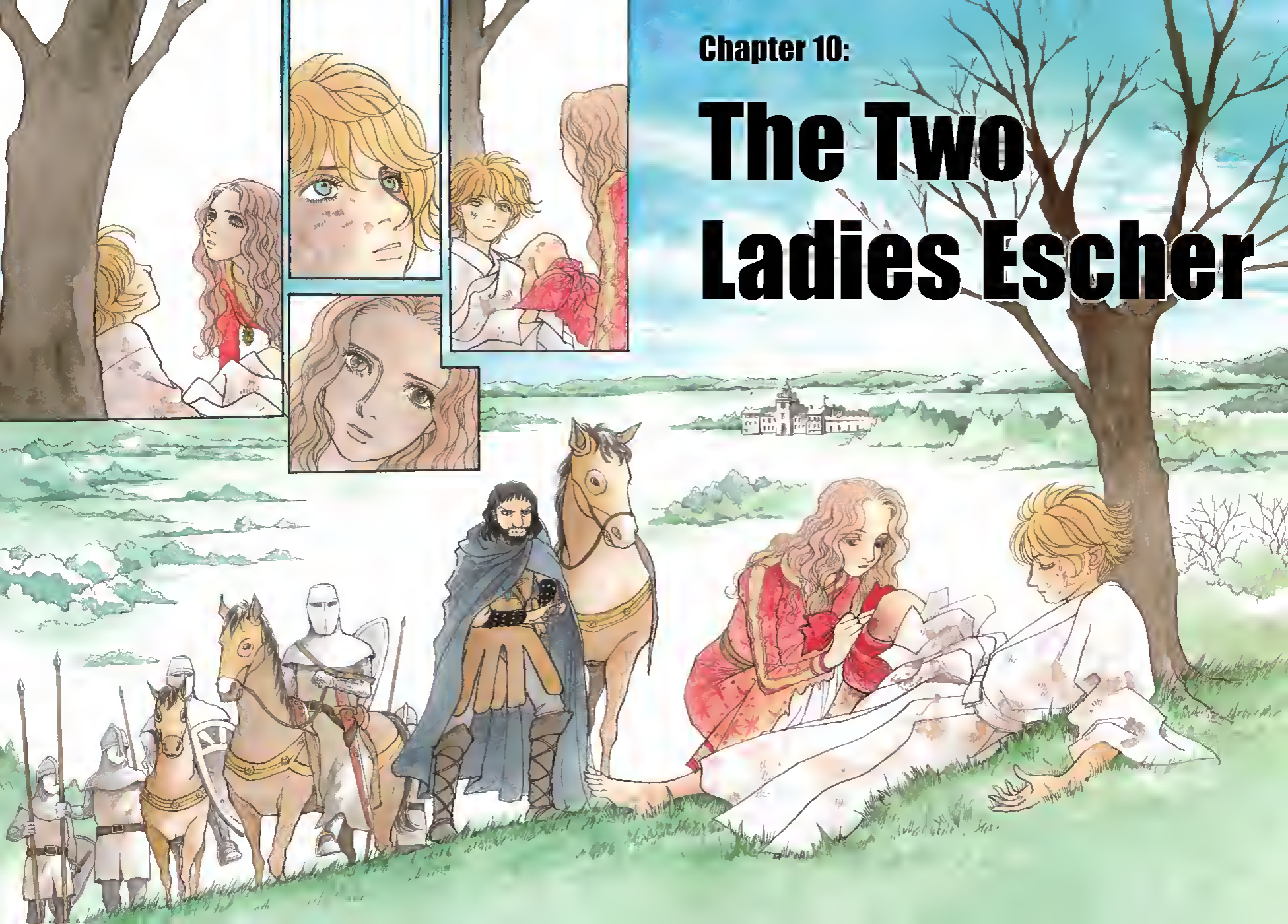
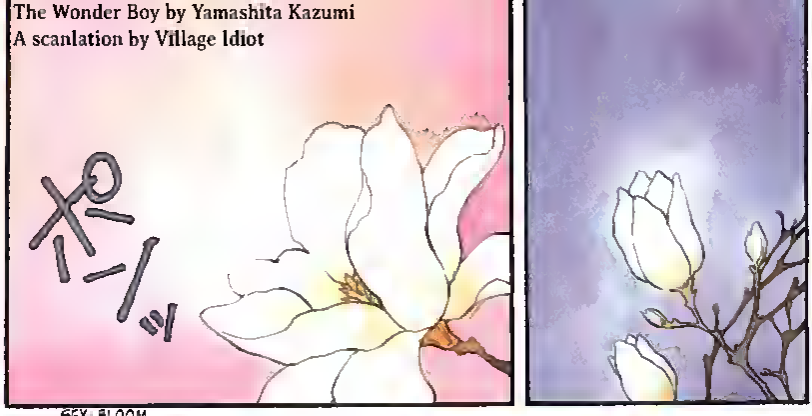
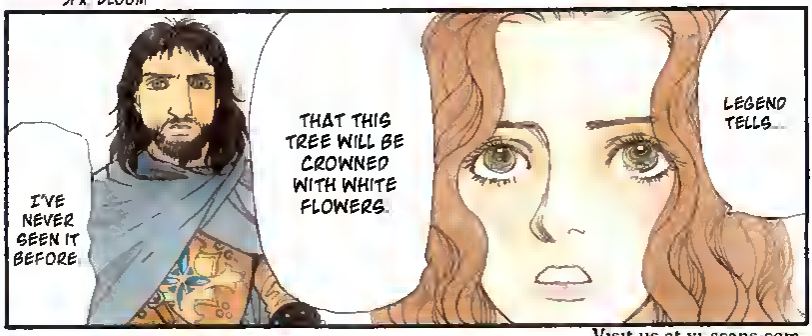
I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH CLOTHES.
WHAT COUNTRY DID HE COME FROM?
SFX RIP
MY LADY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ビリッ


Chapter 10:
The Two Ladies Escher





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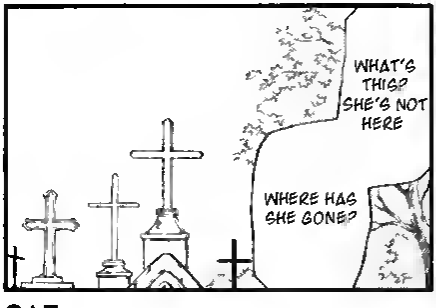
JAMES JOHN ESCHER
MARY JOHN ESCHER
EDWARD JOHN ESCHER
MAY THESE THREE SOULS...
REST WITH GOD IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE, YOUR AUNT AND I WILL SUPPORT YOU THROUGH THIS, NO MATTER WHAT...
PRISCILLA

WHY... DID MY BROTHER AND SISTER HAVE TO DIE LIKE THIS?
HOW COULD THEY JUST LEAVE THAT LITTLE GIRL BEHIND?

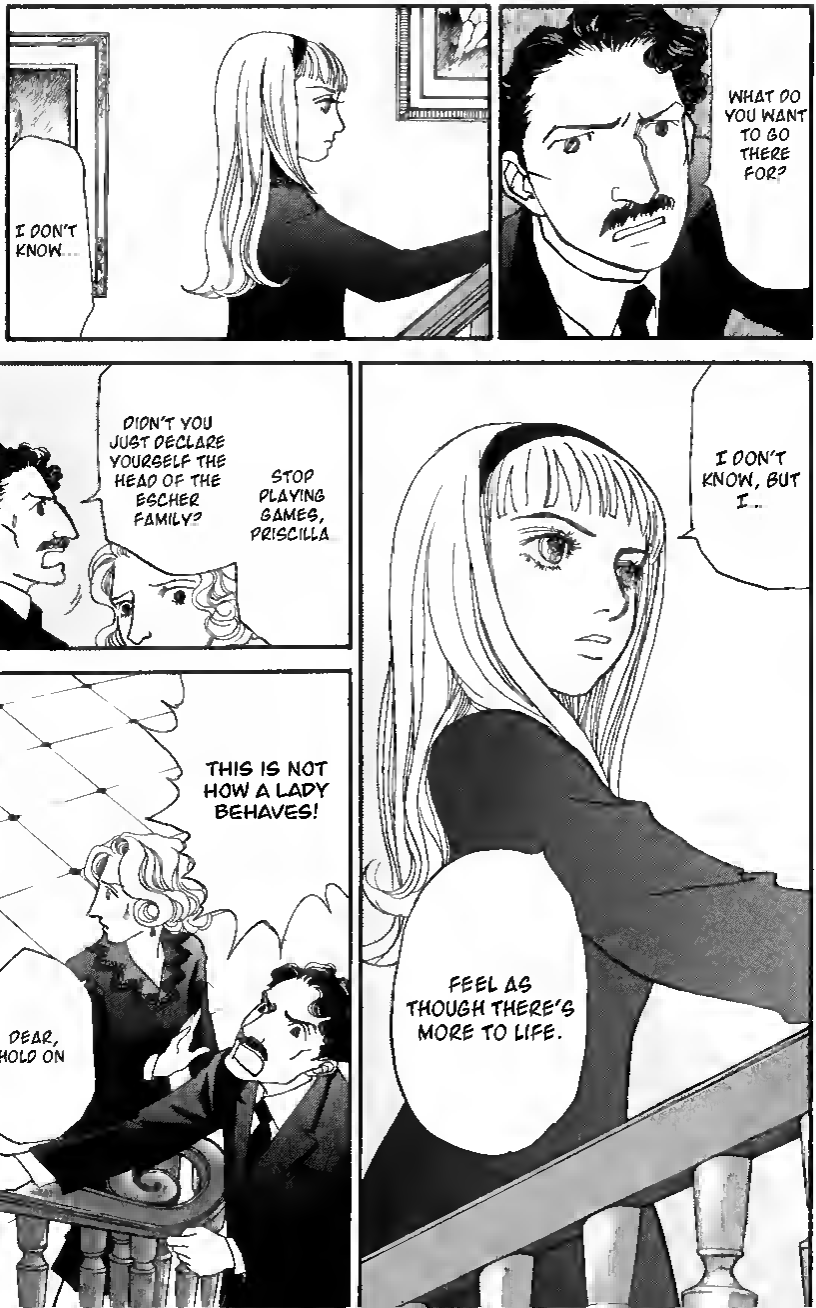

WHAT'S THIS? SHE'S NOT HERE
WHERE HAS SHE GONE?

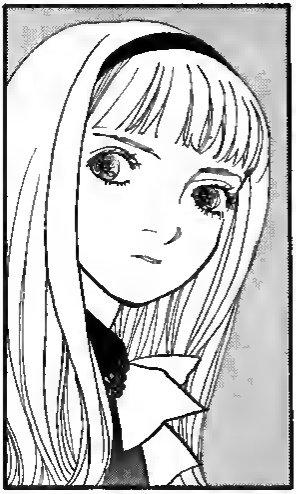
SFX: SLAP

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU WE NEED TO TALK
PRISCILLA

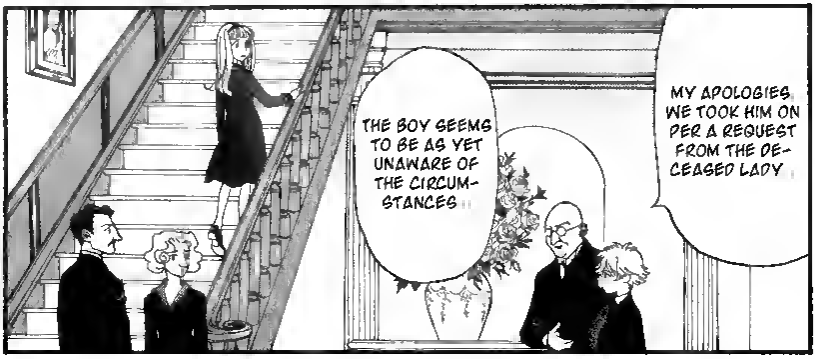
PRIS-
CILLA,
YOUR AUNT AND I WILL BE COMING HERE TO LIVE, STARTING TOMORROW.
YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY MANAGE THE ESTATE AND MANOR ON YOUR OWN. YOU'RE ONLY ELEVEN YEARS OLD.
I'LL BE THE HEAD OF THE ESCHER FAMILY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT BECAUSE, STARTING TOMORROW,
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT, MY DEAR?
SHALL WE STAY WITH YOU TONIGHT AS WELL?

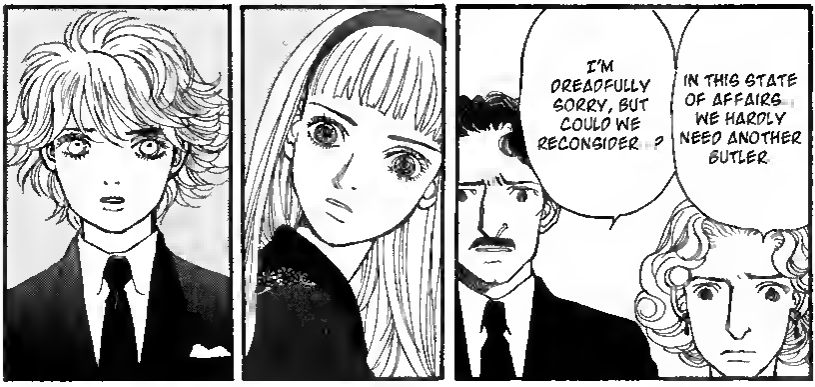
I'M GOING AWAY TO SCHOOL IN LONDON
WHAT?!
BY THE WAY,
GOING OFF
TO A BOARDING SCHOOL? YOU CAN'T!
WHY DON'T WE SEND FOR A TUTOR?
IF I'M TO BE TUTORED AT HOME, I WON'T SEE ANYTHING OF THE WORLD
THEN HOW ABOUT LIVING AND STUDYING AT OUR TOWN HOUSE IN LONDON?
YOUR MOTHER ENTRUSTED YOUR UP-BRINGING TO ME
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MUST PROTECT THE ESCHER FAMILY, WHICH HAS ENDURED SINCE THE 14TH CENTURY
SHE WOULD WANT YOU TO LIVE AS BEFITS YOUR LINEAGE
THAT'D BE JUST AS BORING AS LIVING HERE
I WANT TO GO TO THE WIGHER SCHOOL
THE CHILDREN THERE WILL BE BELOW YOU

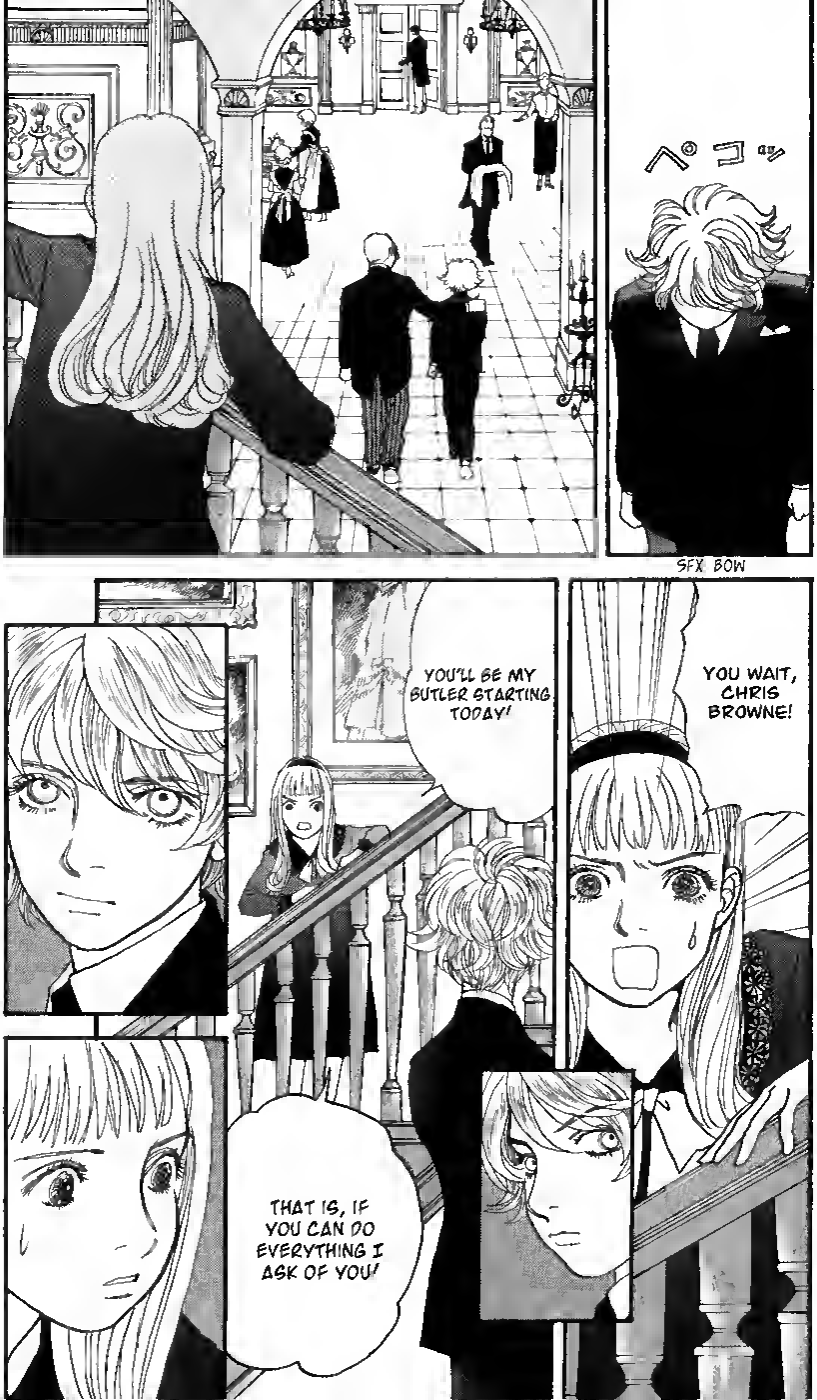

I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GO THERE FOR?
DIDN'T YOU JUST DECLARE YOURSELF THE HEAD OF THE ESCHER FAMILY?
STOP PLAYING GAMES, PRISCILLA
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I..
FEEL AS THOUGH THERE'S MORE TO LIFE.
THIS IS NOT HOW A LADY BEHAVES!
DEAR, HOLD ON



I WILL BE WORKING HERE AS THE ASSISTANT BUTLER STARTING TODAY.
MY NAME IS CHRIS BROWNE
I'M PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE


MY APOLOGIES. WE TOOK HIM ON PER A REQUEST FROM THE DECEASED LADY.
THE BOY SEEMS TO BE AS YET UNAWARE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.


I'M DREADFULLY SORRY, BUT COULD WE RECONSIDER?
IN THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS... WE HARDLY NEED ANOTHER BUTLER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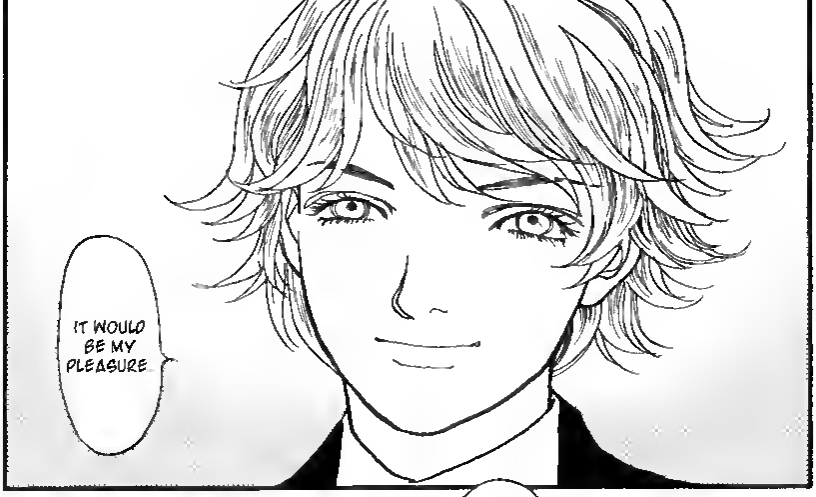
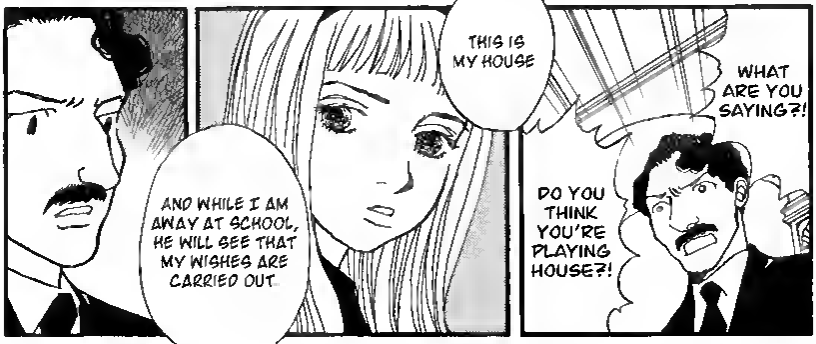
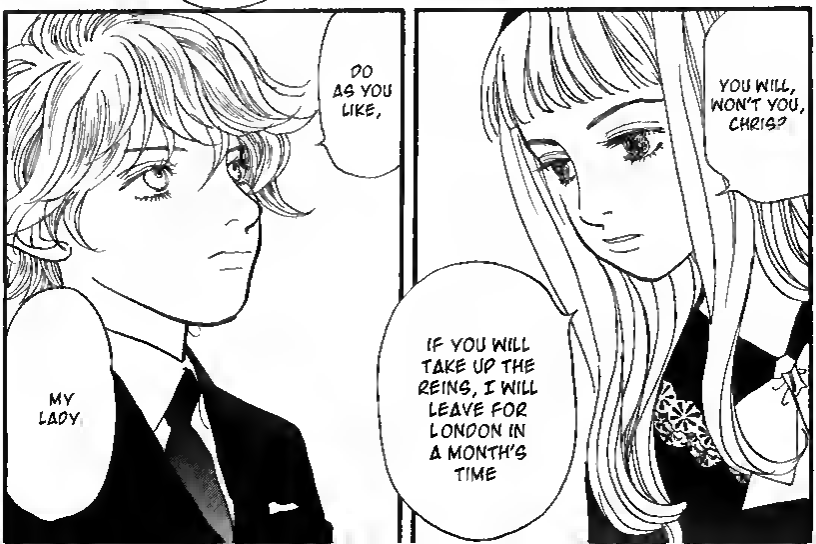
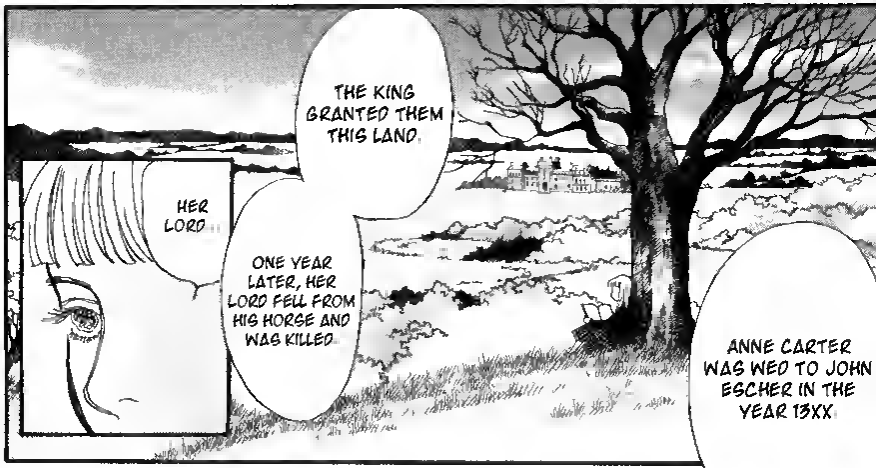
SFX BOW
YOU'LL BE MY BUTLER STARTING TODAY!
YOU WAIT, CHRIS BROWNE!
THAT IS, IF YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING I ASK OF YOU!

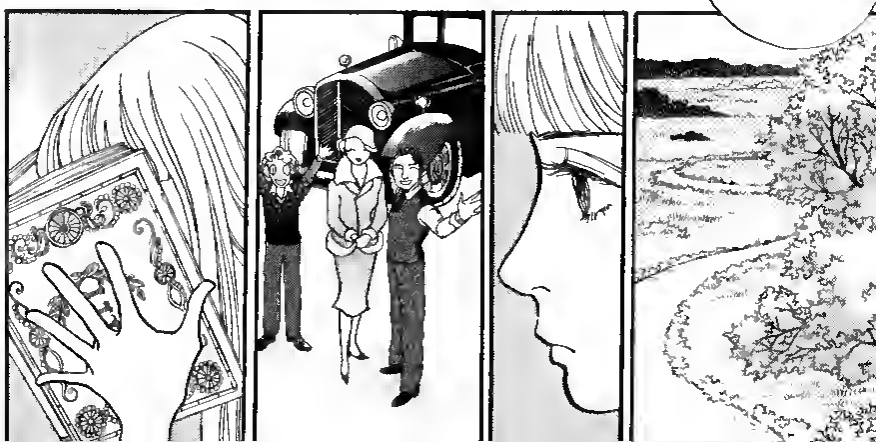

IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE

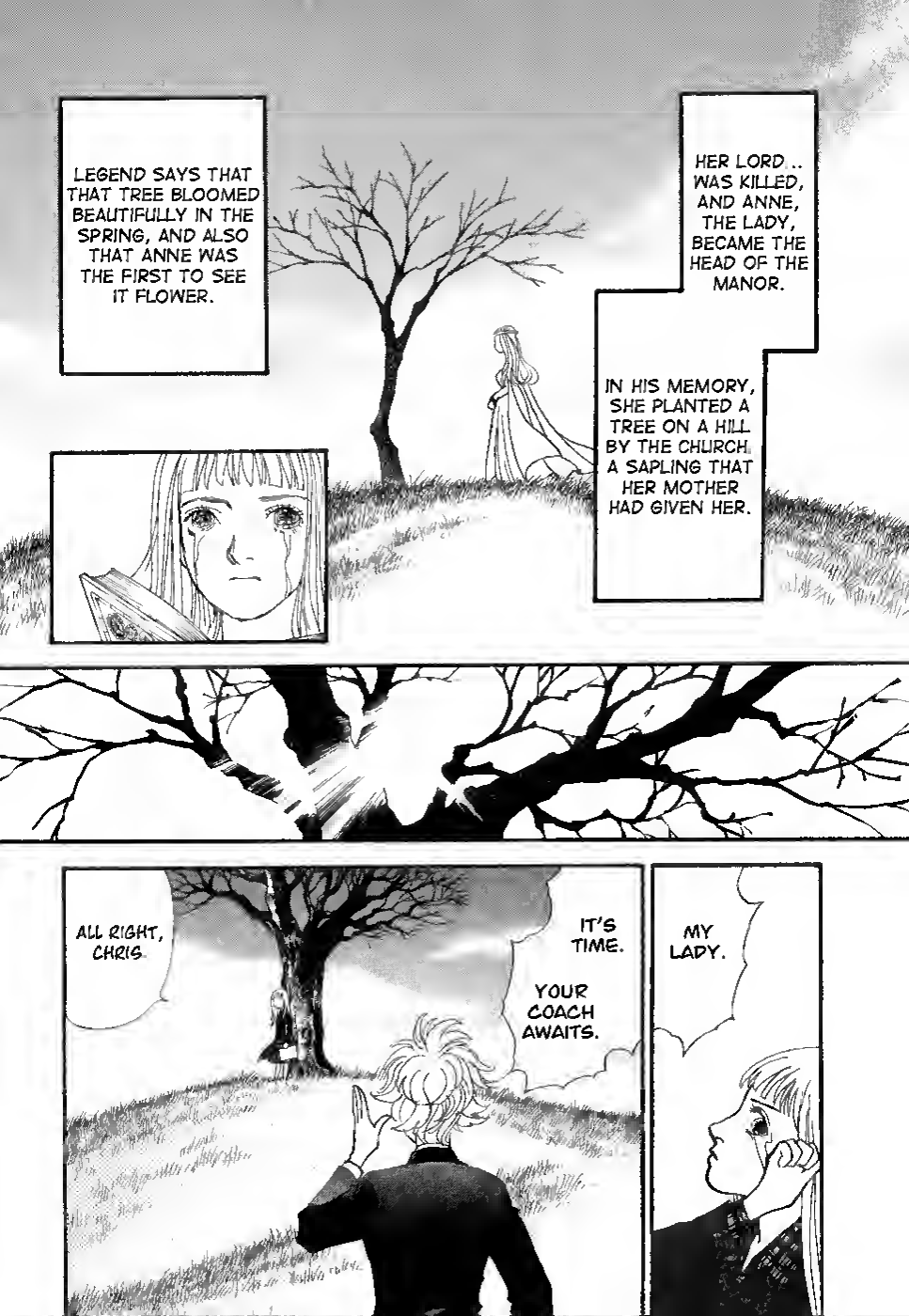

AND WHILE I AM AWAY AT SCHOOL, HE WILL SEE THAT MY WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT
THIS IS MY HOUSE
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PLAYING HOUSE?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!


MY LADY
DO AS YOU LIKE,
IF YOU WILL TAKE UP THE REINS, I WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON IN A MONTH'S TIME
YOU WILL, WON'T YOU, CHRIS?

ONE MONTH LATER


HER LORD
THE KING GRANTED THEM THIS LAND.
ONE YEAR LATER, HER LORD FELL FROM HIS HORSE AND WAS KILLED.
ANNE CARTER WAS WED TO JOHN ESCHER IN THE YEAR 13XX.

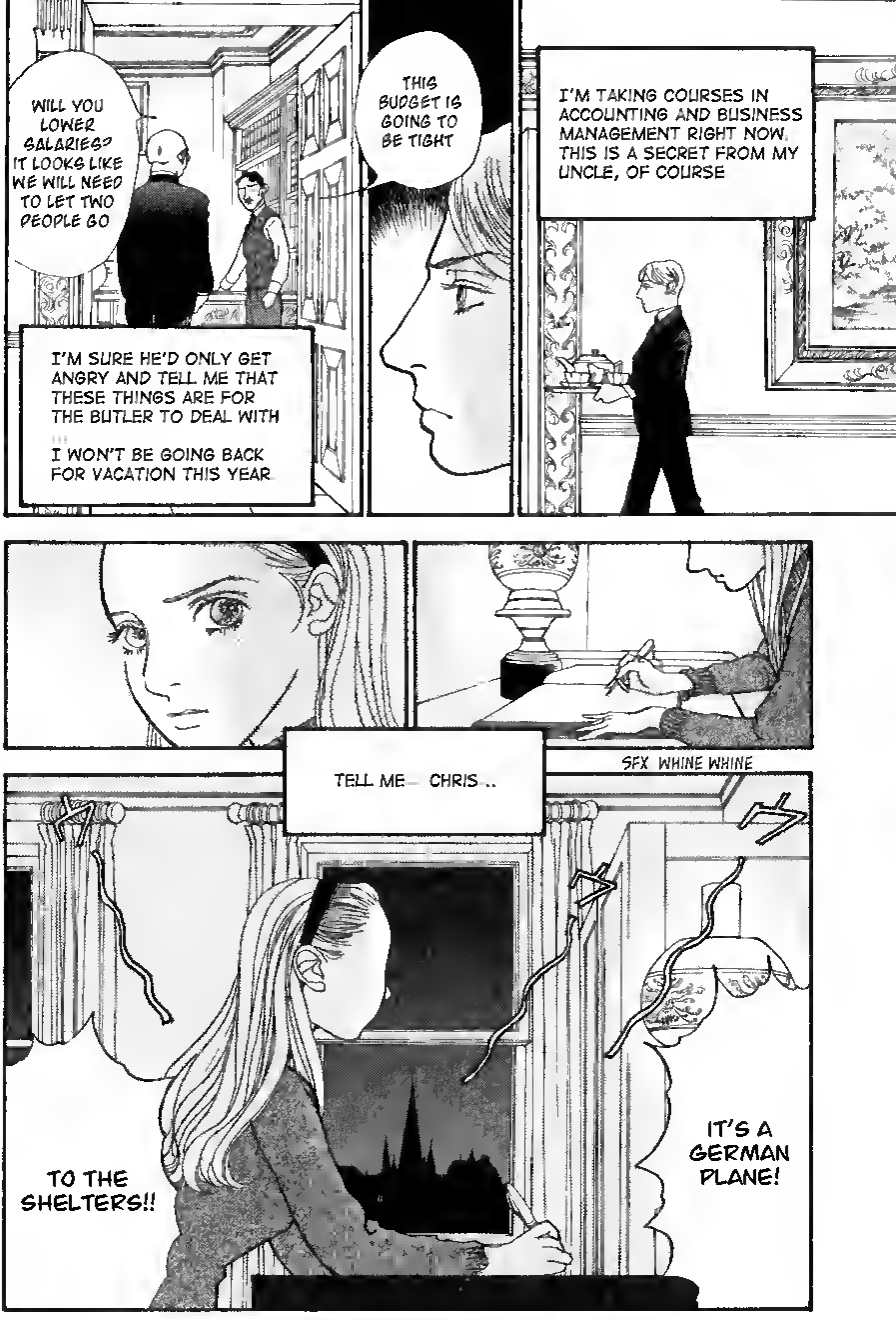



LEGEND SAYS THAT THAT TREE BLOOMED BEAUTIFULLY IN THE SPRING, AND ALSO THAT ANNE WAS THE FIRST TO SEE IT FLOWER.
HER LORD .. WAS KILLED, AND ANNE, THE LADY, BECAME THE HEAD OF THE MANOR.
IN HIS MEMORY, SHE PLANTED A TREE ON A HILL BY THE CHURCH. A SAPLING THAT HER MOTHER HAD GIVEN HER.
ALL RIGHT, CHRIS.
IT'S TIME.
YOUR COACH AWAITS.
MY LADY.

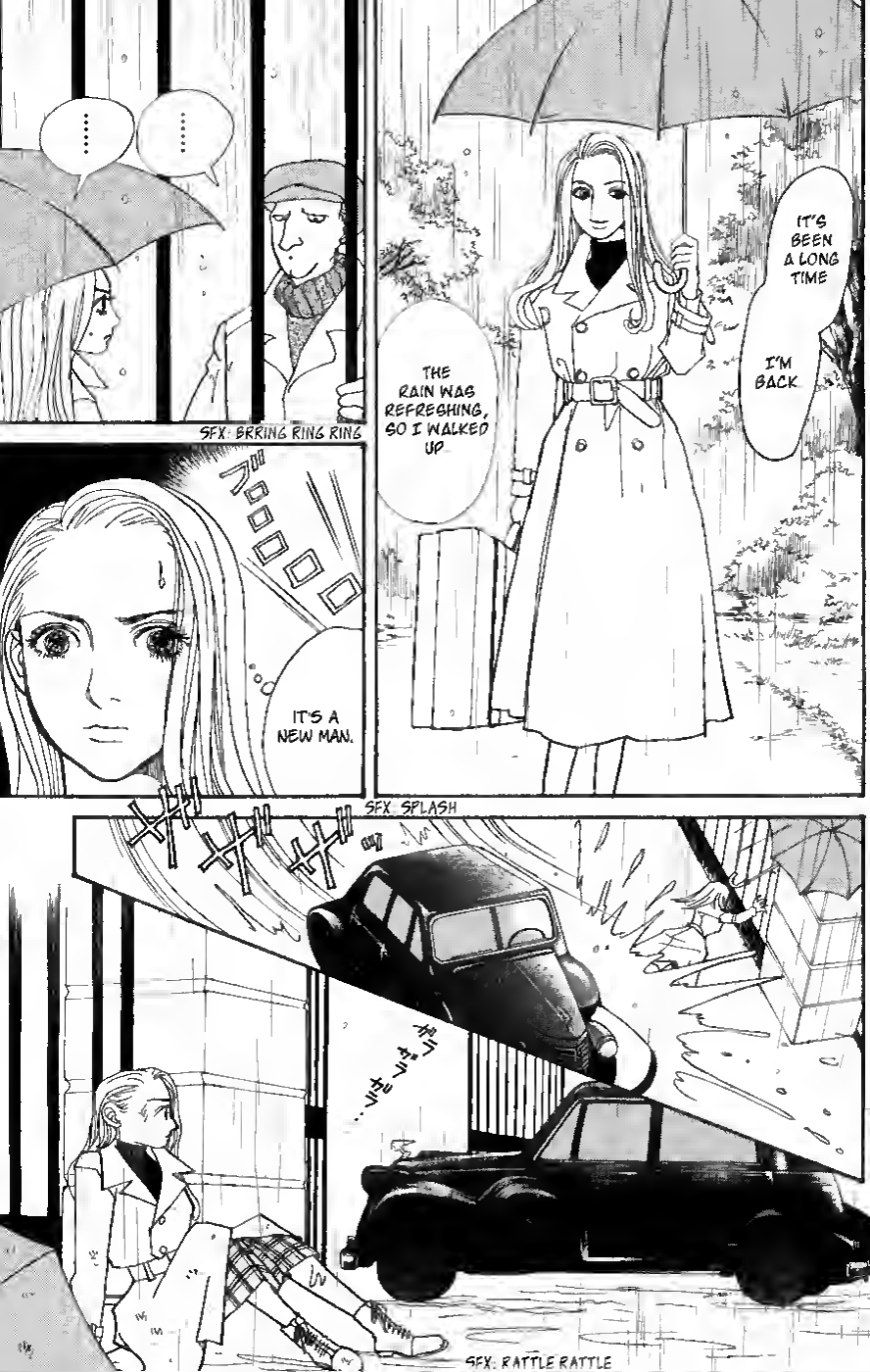
DO YOU THINK
THAT TREE WILL COME BACK TO LIFE?
SAY, CHRIS?
YES, MY LADY?
I WILL BECOME STRONG, AND I WILL COME BACK
IF MY LADY WILLS IT TO, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED...
CHRIS?
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF WHILE I'M GONE
YES, MY LADY

KNOCK KNOCK
CHRIS, A LETTER FOR YOU FROM THE YOUNG MISS
AHH, THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO!
I WONDER WHAT THEY WERE THINKING, GIVING BILL AND GASSY THE BOOT BUT TAKING ON ANOTHER PERSON FOR THIS KIND OF VAGUE ROLE.
THE YOUNG MISS IS GONE, SO OF COURSE NOT
IS THERE ANYTHING FOR ME TO DO?
CHRIS... ARE MY AUNT AND UNCLE WELL?
THEY DIDN'T SEND A CHRISTMAS CARD THIS YEAR, EITHER... ...ARE THEY STILL ANGRY?

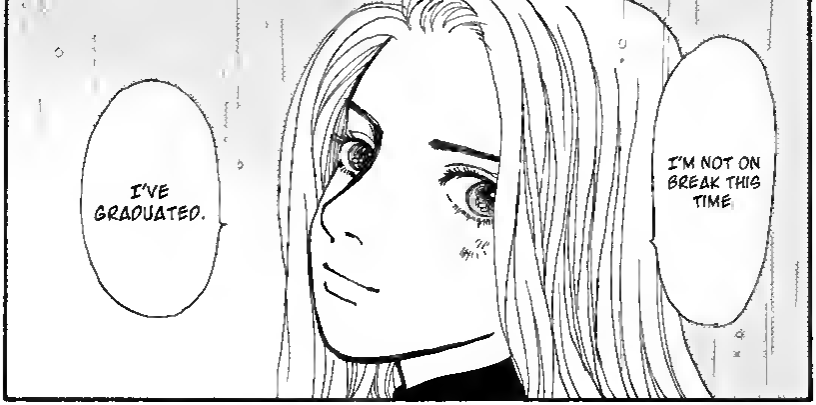
IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE I'VE COME TO LONDON...
I SEEM TO HAVE MADE FRIENDS, BUT PERHAPS THEY'RE SIMPLY LEECHING OFF OF ME.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, THEY ALSO TREAT ME LIKE A YOUNG LADY HERE AND I'M LEARNING THE EXACT SAME THINGS AS WHEN I HAD A TUTOR.
SFX: FLIP...
SAY, CHRIS... I'VE DECIDED.
TO GO TO UNIVERSITY.

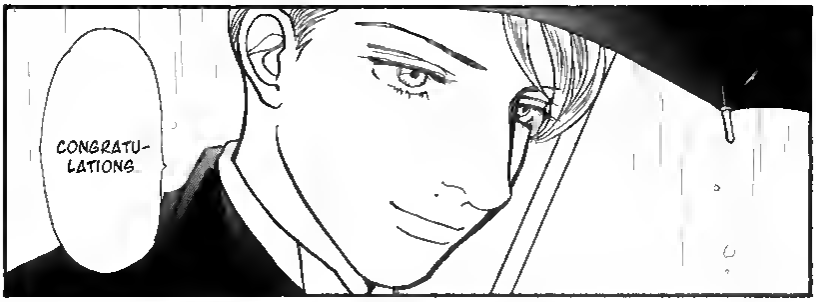

WILL YOU LOWER SALARIES? IT LOOKS LIKE WE WILL NEED TO LET TWO PEOPLE GO
THIS BUDGET IS GOING TO BE TIGHT
I'M TAKING COURSES IN ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT RIGHT NOW. THIS IS A SECRET FROM MY UNCLE, OF COURSE
I'M SURE HE'D ONLY GET ANGRY AND TELL ME THAT THESE THINGS ARE FOR THE BUTLER TO DEAL WITH
I WON'T BE GOING BACK FOR VACATION THIS YEAR
TELL ME— CHRIS ..
SFX WHINE WHINE
TO THE SHELTERS!!
IT'S A GERMAN PLANE!

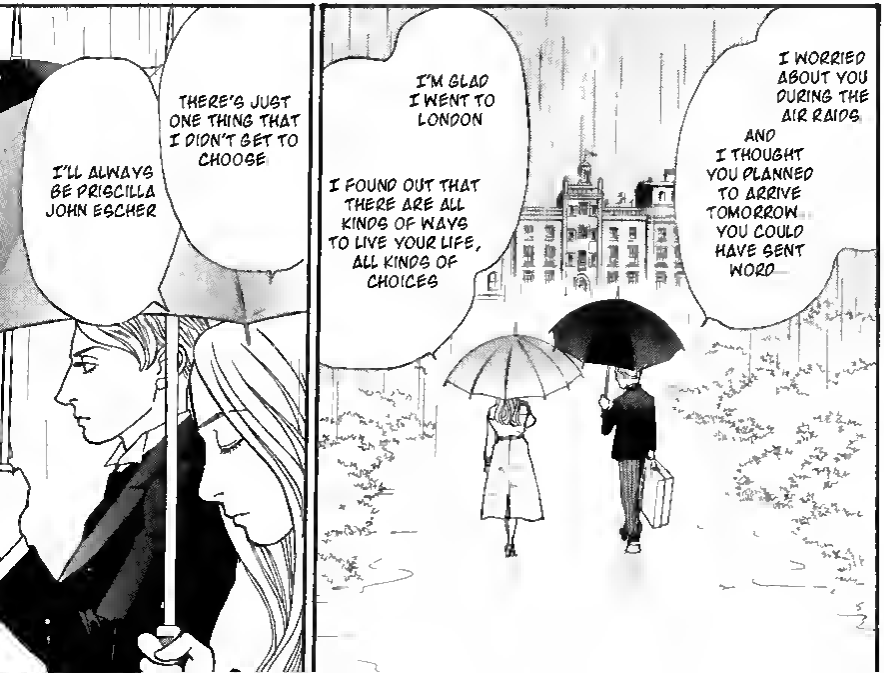
WILL I REALLY... BE ABLE TO LIVE MY LIFE THE WAY I WANT TO?

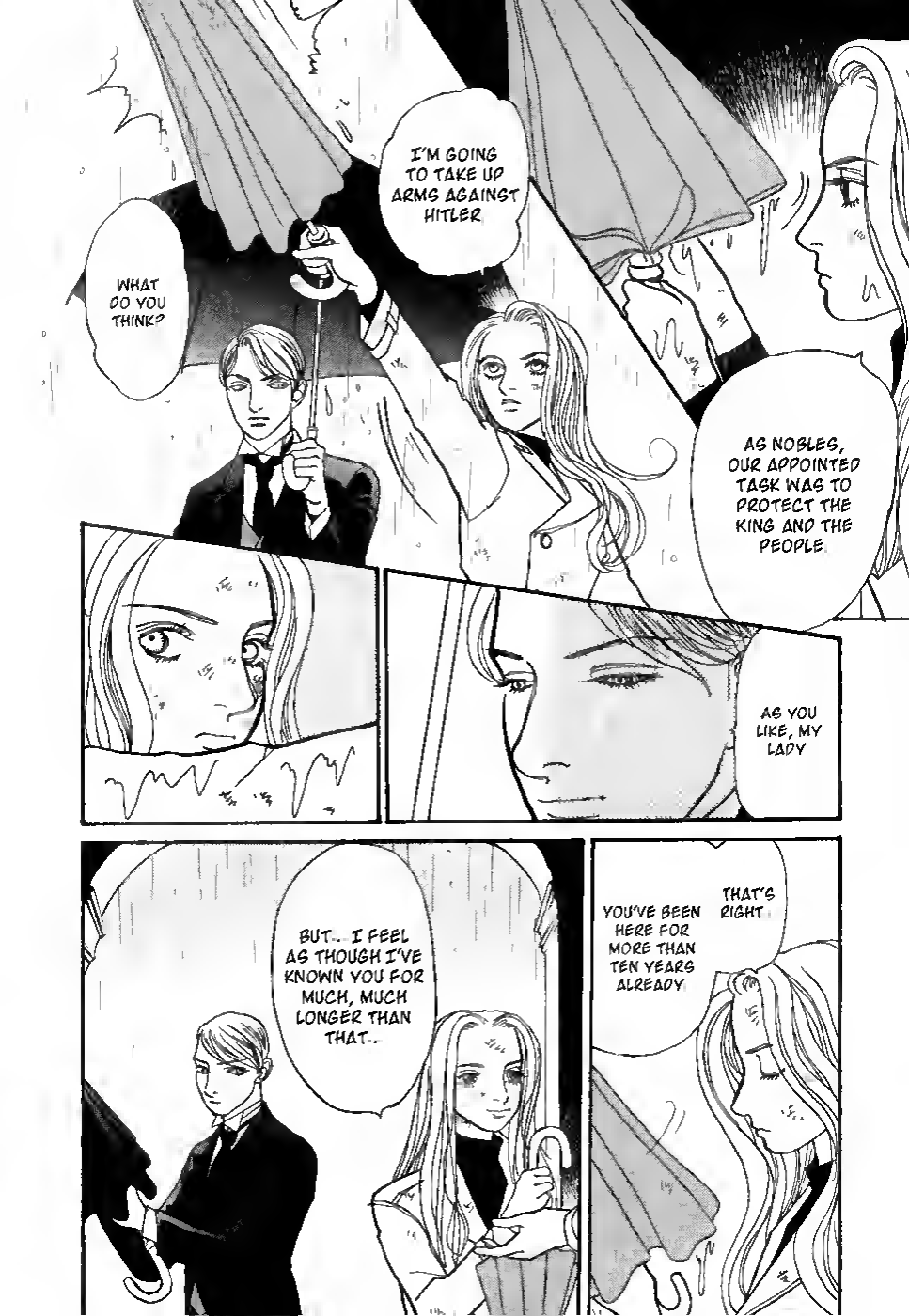

……
……
SFX: BRRING RING RING
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
I'M BACK
THE RAIN WAS REFRESHING, SO I WALKED UP
IT'S A NEW MAN.
SFX: SPLASH
SFX: RATTLE RATTLE

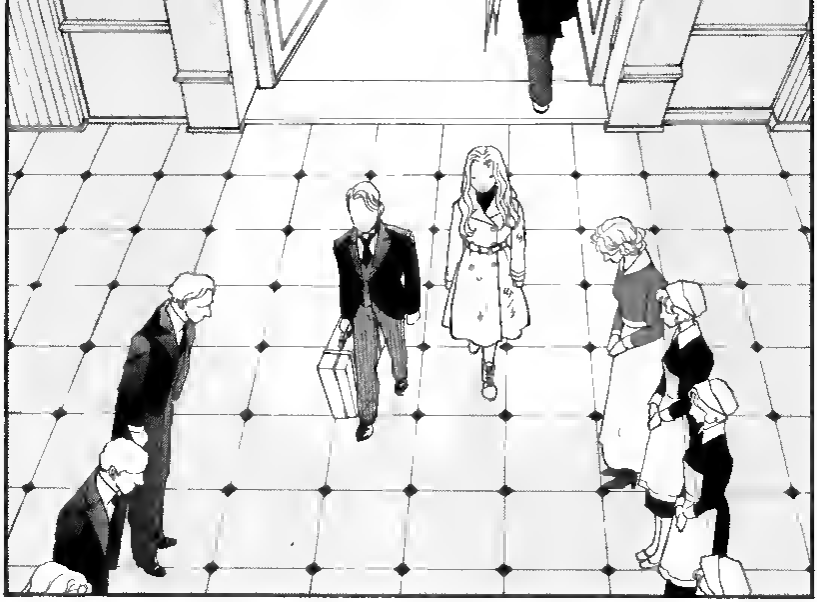
SFX: RATTLE RATTLE CLICK
WHO WAS THAT MAN?!
MISS PRISCILLA!

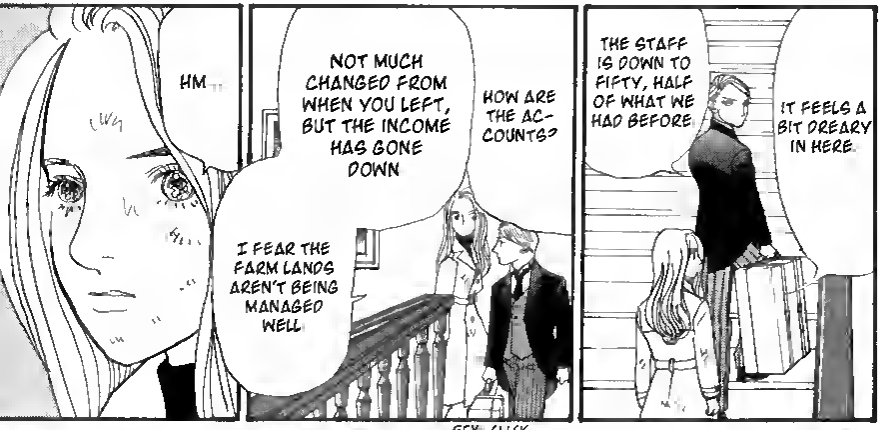

I'VE GRADUATED.
I'M NOT ON BREAK THIS TIME


CONGRATU-LATIONS

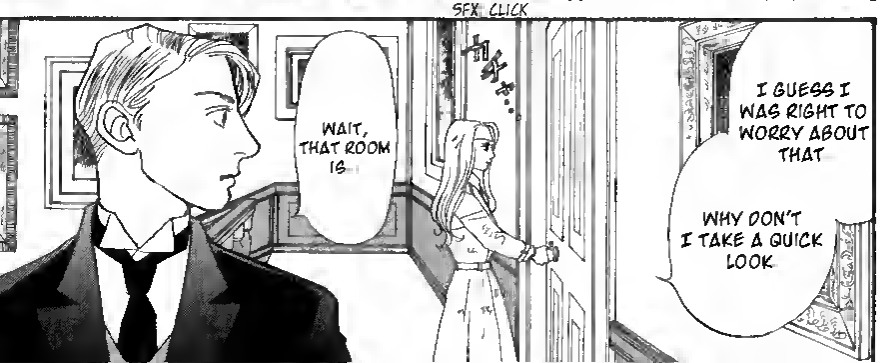

I'LL ALWAYS BE PRISCILLA JOHN ESCHER
THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT I DIDN'T GET TO CHOOSE
I FOUND OUT THAT THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF WAYS TO LIVE YOUR LIFE, ALL KINDS OF CHOICES
I'M GLAD I WENT TO LONDON
I WORRIED ABOUT YOU DURING THE AIR RAIDS AND I THOUGHT YOU PLANNED TO ARRIVE TOMORROW YOU COULD HAVE SENT WORD


I'M GOING TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST HITLER
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AS NOBLES, OUR APPOINTED TASK WAS TO PROTECT THE KING AND THE PEOPLE
AS YOU LIKE, MY LADY
BUT... I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR MUCH, MUCH LONGER THAN THAT..
YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS ALREADY
THAT'S RIGHT




HM...
NOT MUCH CHANGED FROM WHEN YOU LEFT, BUT THE INCOME HAS GONE DOWN
I FEAR THE FARM LANDS AREN'T BEING MANAGED WELL
HOW ARE THE ACCOUNTS?
THE STAFF IS DOWN TO FIFTY, HALF OF WHAT WE HAD BEFORE
IT FEELS A BIT DREARY IN HERE.

SFX: CLICK

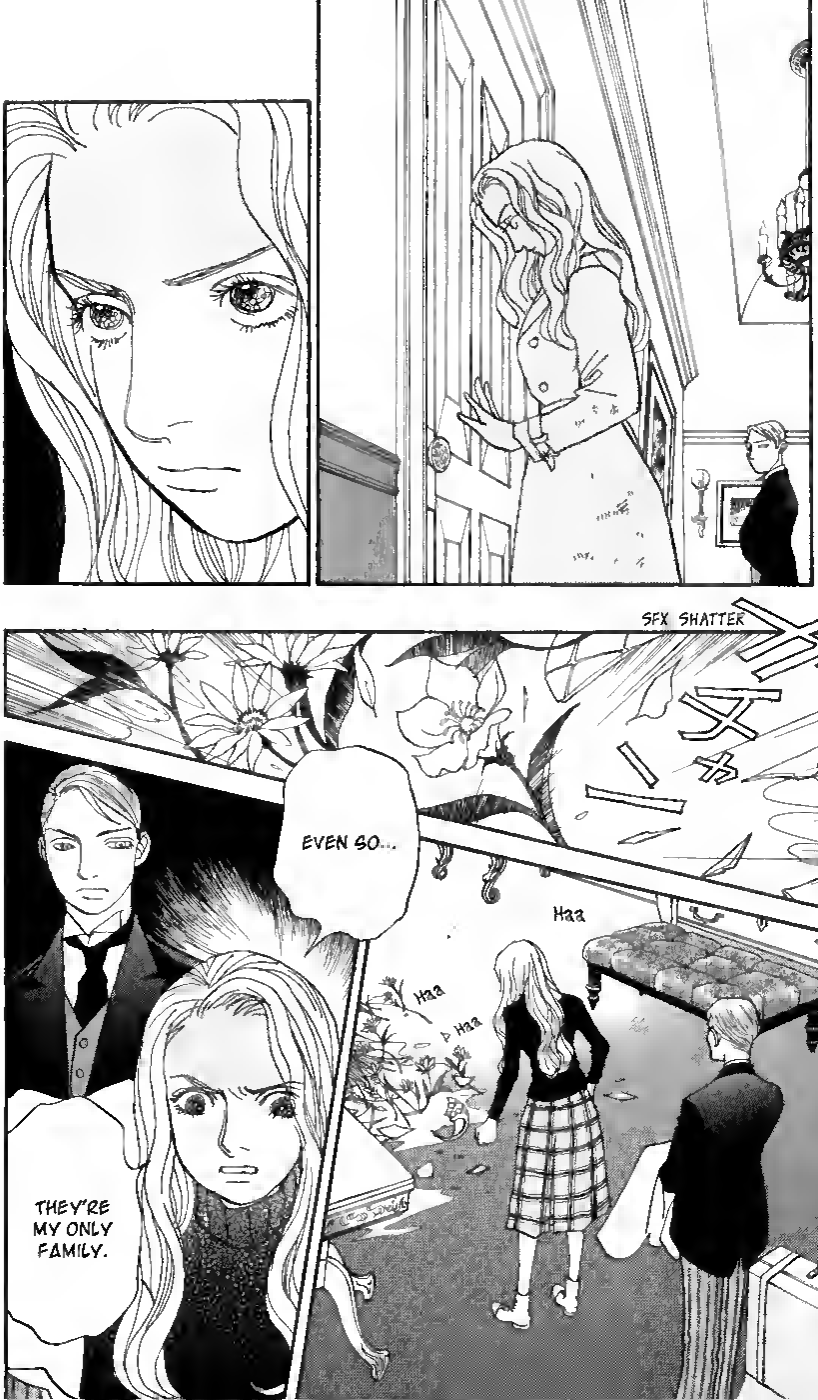

WAIT, THAT ROOM IS...
I GUESS I WAS RIGHT TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHY DON'T I TAKE A QUICK LOOK.

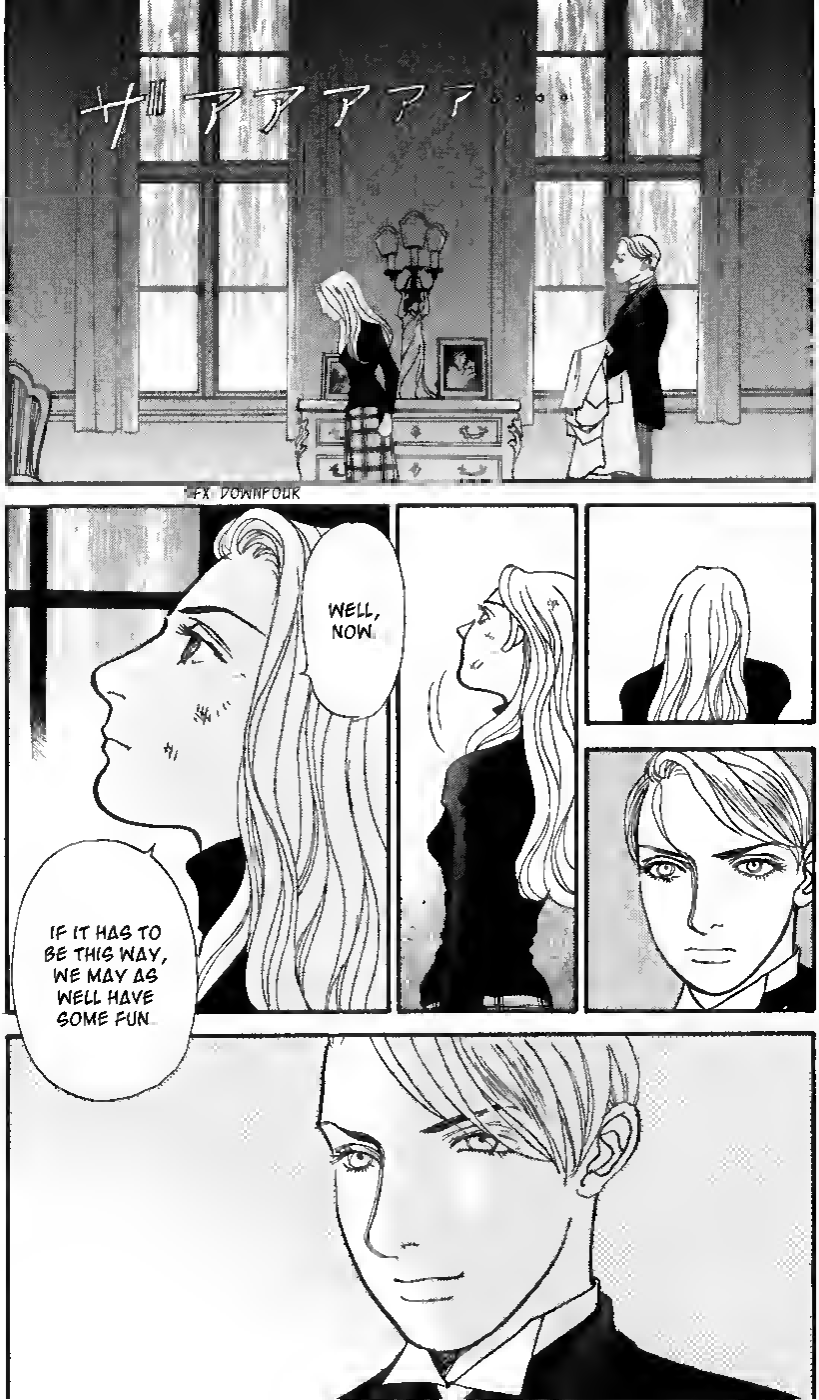
SFX CRAM
PRIS-
CILLA!
SO,
YOU'RE MISS
PRISCILLA?
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE COMING BACK
TOMORROW?!
WE MET
EARLIER, AT
THE GATE

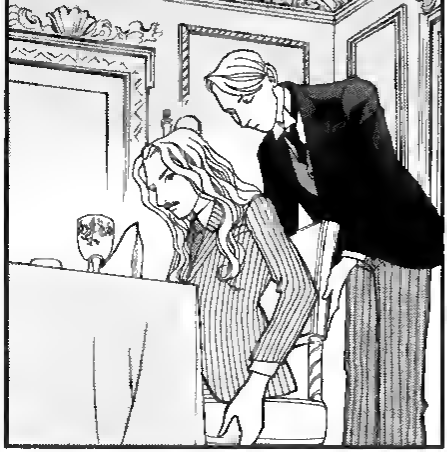
PRISCILLA, THIS IS GEORGE WILTON, FROM THE WILTON BANK IN AMERICA. HE CAME TO HELP US WITH SOME BUSINESS MATTERS
HE'LL BE STAYING WITH US WHILE HE ATTENDS TO BUSINESS IN ENGLAND.
IN FACT, HE ATTENDED YOUR FATHER'S FUNERAL DO YOU REMEMBER?
HIS FATHER AND YOUR GRANDFATHER WERE OLD FRIENDS FROM THEIR DAYS AT OXFORD.
DID WE, NOW?
STARTING TODAY, I WILL MANAGE OUR FINANCES.
BYE, THEN
HUH?
ANYWAY, UNCLE, I'VE TAKEN LICENSES IN NURSING AND ACCOUNTANCY AT SCHOOL
NO, I DO NOT
SEX SLAM
WH-WH-WHAT IS THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN...

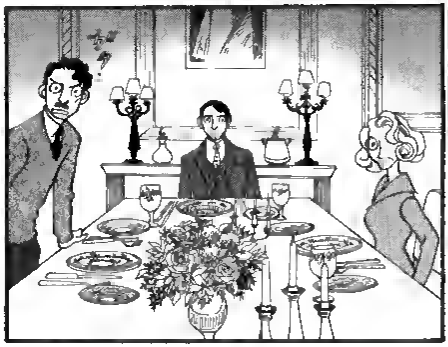
YOU DIDN'T LET HER SEE THE DEED PAPERS, DID YOU?!
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE CHANCE! WE'RE FINE!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF SHE'D DIED WITH THE REST OF THEM...
LIKE I SAID
WHICH MEANS,
THAT HER SIGNATURE HERE IS A FORGERY, ISN'T IT?
I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS CONTRACT...
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER PRISCILLA FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS! WE HAVE A RIGHT TO THE LAND!
TH-THAT'S...
AND THE 200,000 POUNDS YOU BORROWED AGAINST THE LAND, YOU MUST HAVE RETURNED THAT, RIGHT?

YOU HAD TROUBLE GETTING SUPPLIES BECAUSE OF THE WAR,
BUT COULDN'T YOU HAVE DEVELOPED THE FARMLAND AROUND HERE AND INCREASED YOUR HARVEST?
HOW HAVE YOU MANAGED TO LET THE MONEY DWINDLE AWAY LIKE THIS?
HOHO
I'LL SAY THIS, SHE'S QUITE AN INTERESTING YOUNG LADY
SFX THUMP
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEIZE THE PROPERTY FOR DELINQUENCY
IF SHE AND I GET MARRIED, SAY...
WELL, THAT'S NOT TO SAY THAT THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE

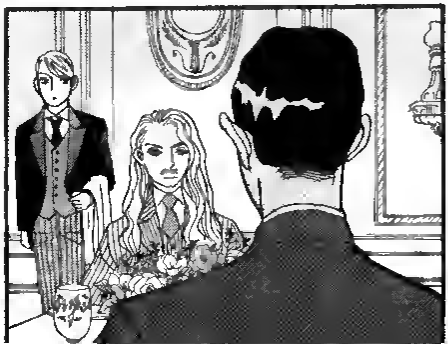

SFX SHATTER
EVEN SO...
Haa
Haa
Haa
THEY'RE MY ONLY FAMILY.

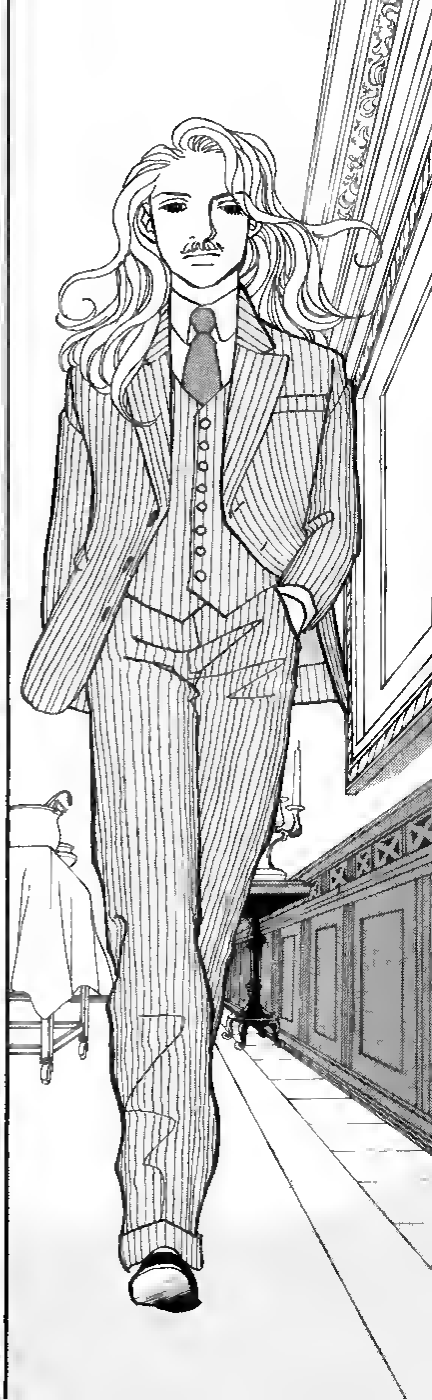

サアアアア…
FX DOWNPOUR
WELL, NOW
IF IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY, WE MAY AS WELL HAVE SOME FUN

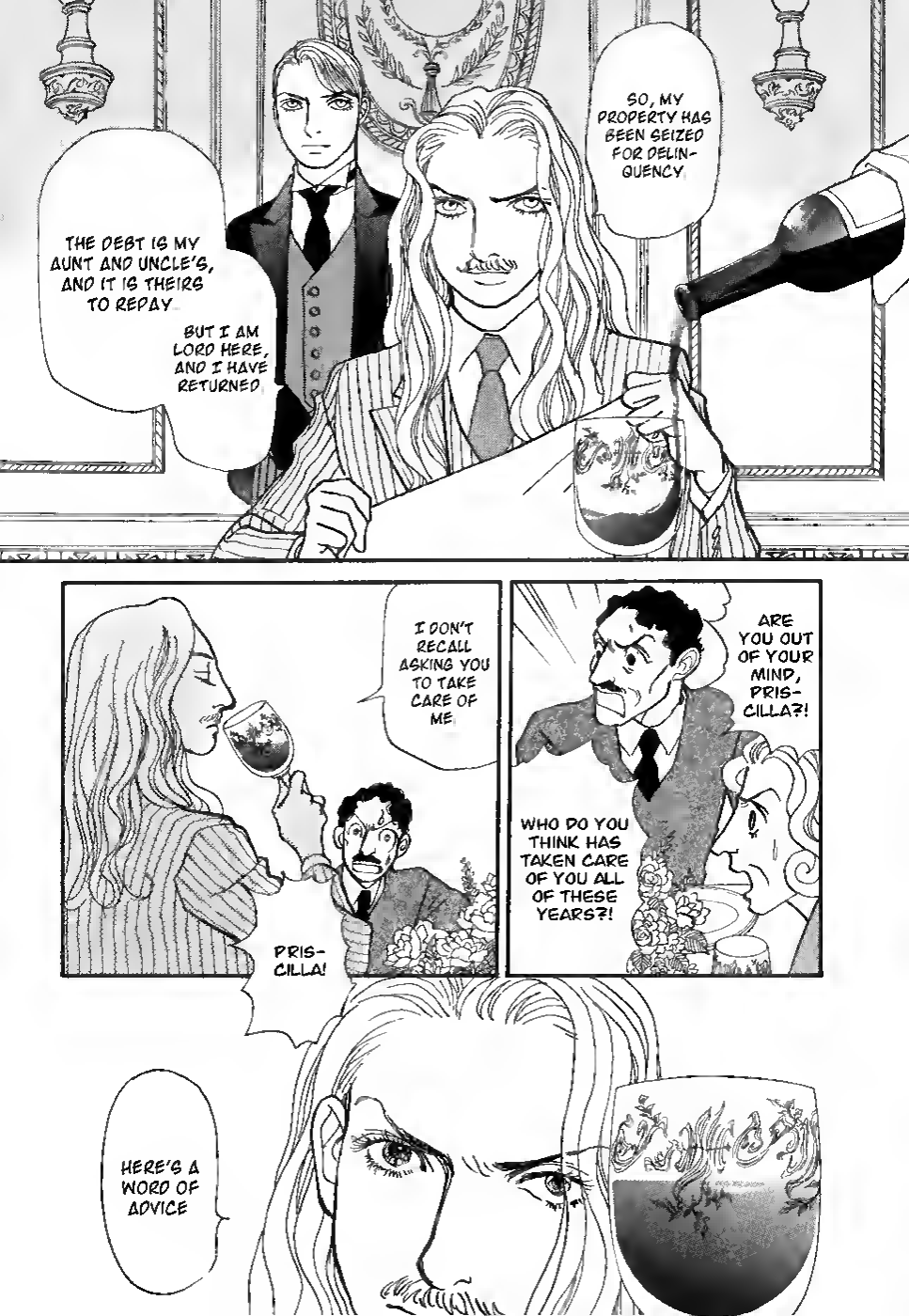




HONEY, LOOK...
I SEE...

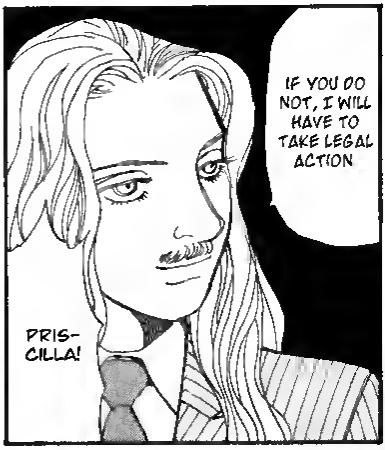


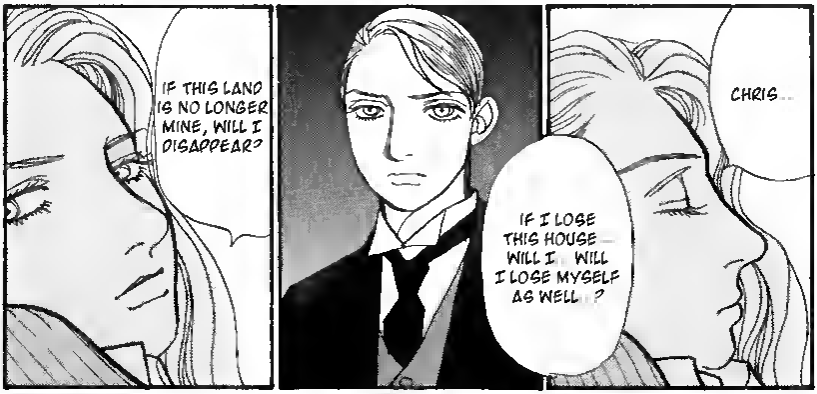


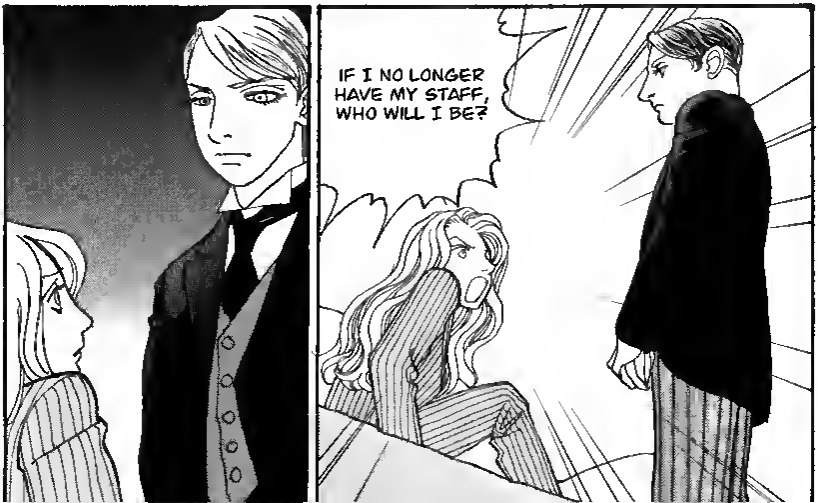

SO, MY PROPERTY HAS BEEN SEIZED FOR DELINQUENCY
THE DEBT IS MY AUNT AND UNCLE'S, AND IT IS THEIRS TO REPAY
BUT I AM LORD HERE, AND I HAVE RETURNED
I DON'T RECALL ASKING YOU TO TAKE CARE OF ME
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, PRISCILLA?!
WHO DO YOU THINK HAS TAKEN CARE OF YOU ALL OF THESE YEARS?!
PRISCILLA!
HERE'S A WORD OF ADVICE

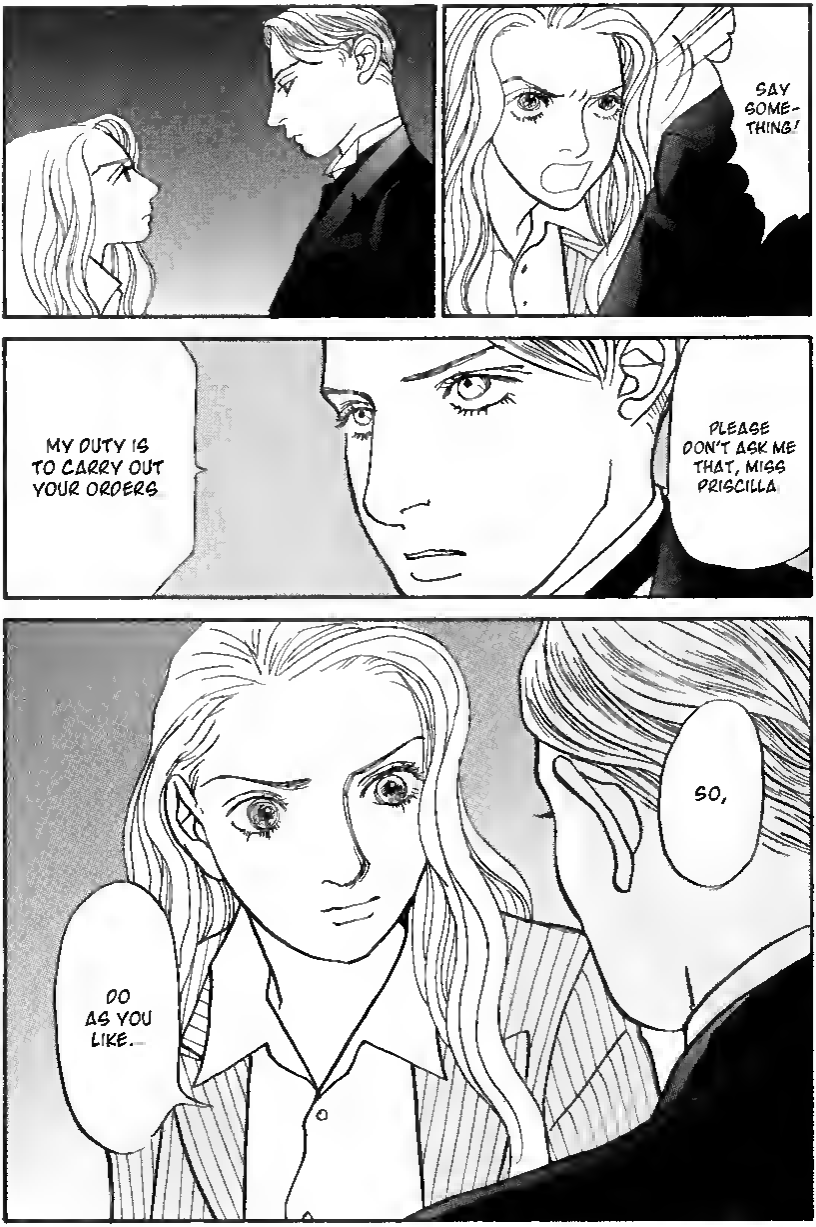
I WANT YOU TO PACK YOUR BAGS TOMORROW AND LEAVE.
THIS IS STILL MY HOUSE.

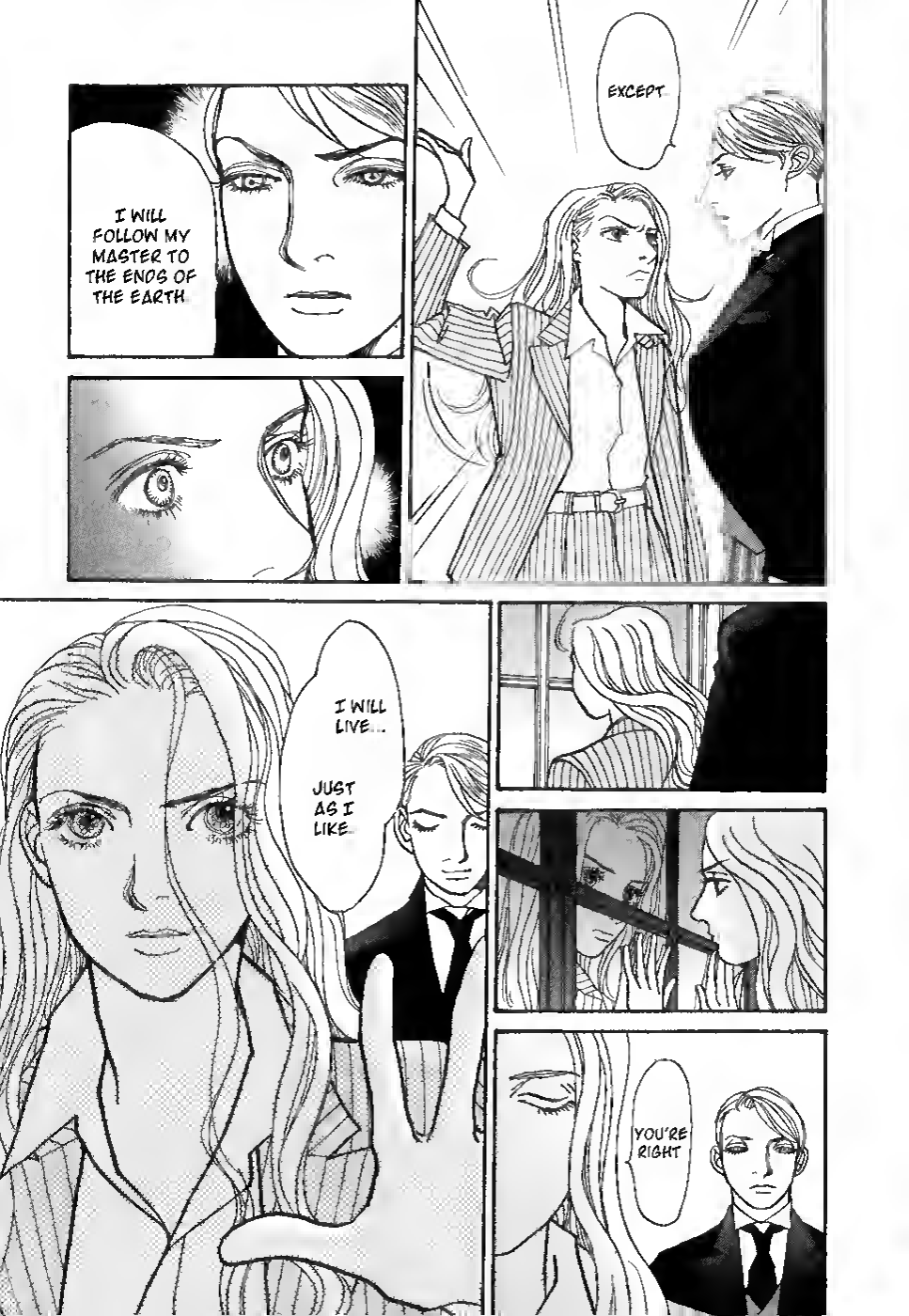
GET YOURSELF HOME QUICKLY
AND YOU TOO, YOUNG SIR

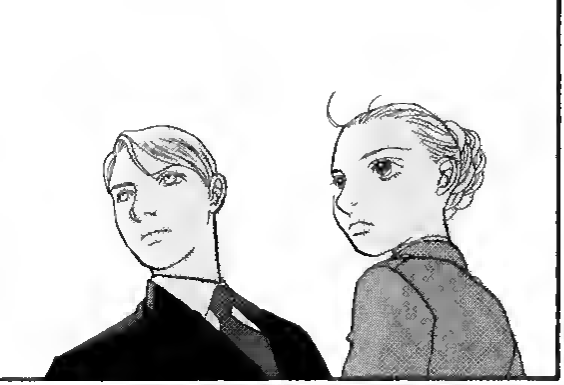

PRISCILLA!
IF YOU DO NOT, I WILL HAVE TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION

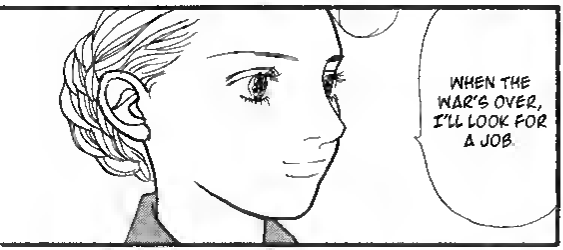

IF THIS LAND IS NO LONGER MINE, WILL I DISAPPEAR?
IF I LOSE THIS HOUSE... WILL I... WILL I LOSE MYSELF AS WELL...?
CHRIS...


IF I NO LONGER HAVE MY STAFF, WHO WILL I BE?


SAY SOME-THING!
MY DUTY IS TO CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS
PLEASE DON'T ASK ME THAT, MISS PRISCILLA
SO,
DO AS YOU LIKE.—

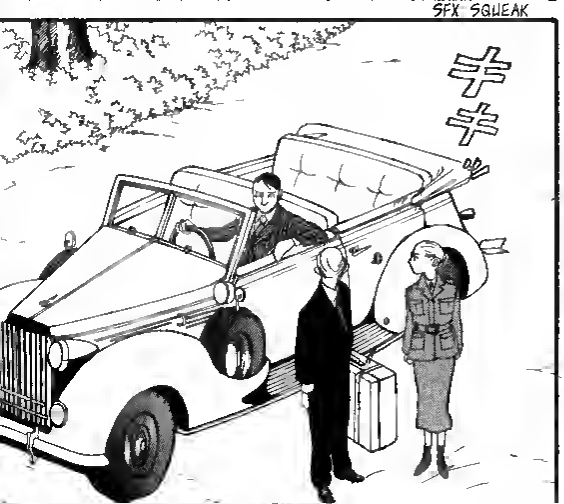

I WILL FOLLOW MY MASTER TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
EXCEPT
I WILL LIVE...
JUST AS I LIKE
YOU'RE RIGHT

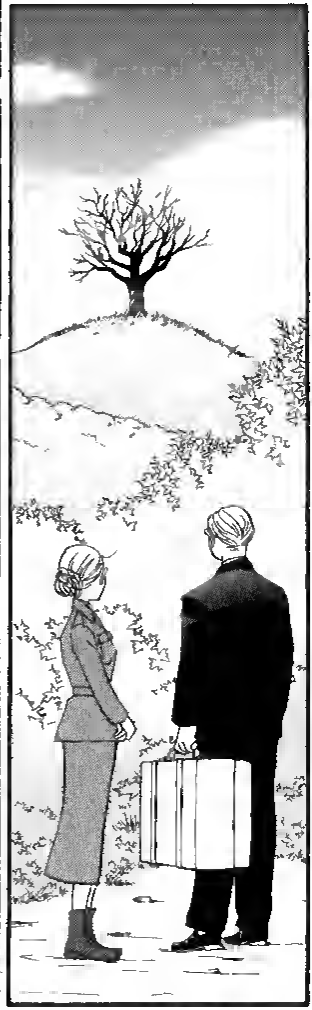




SFX: VRRROOOM

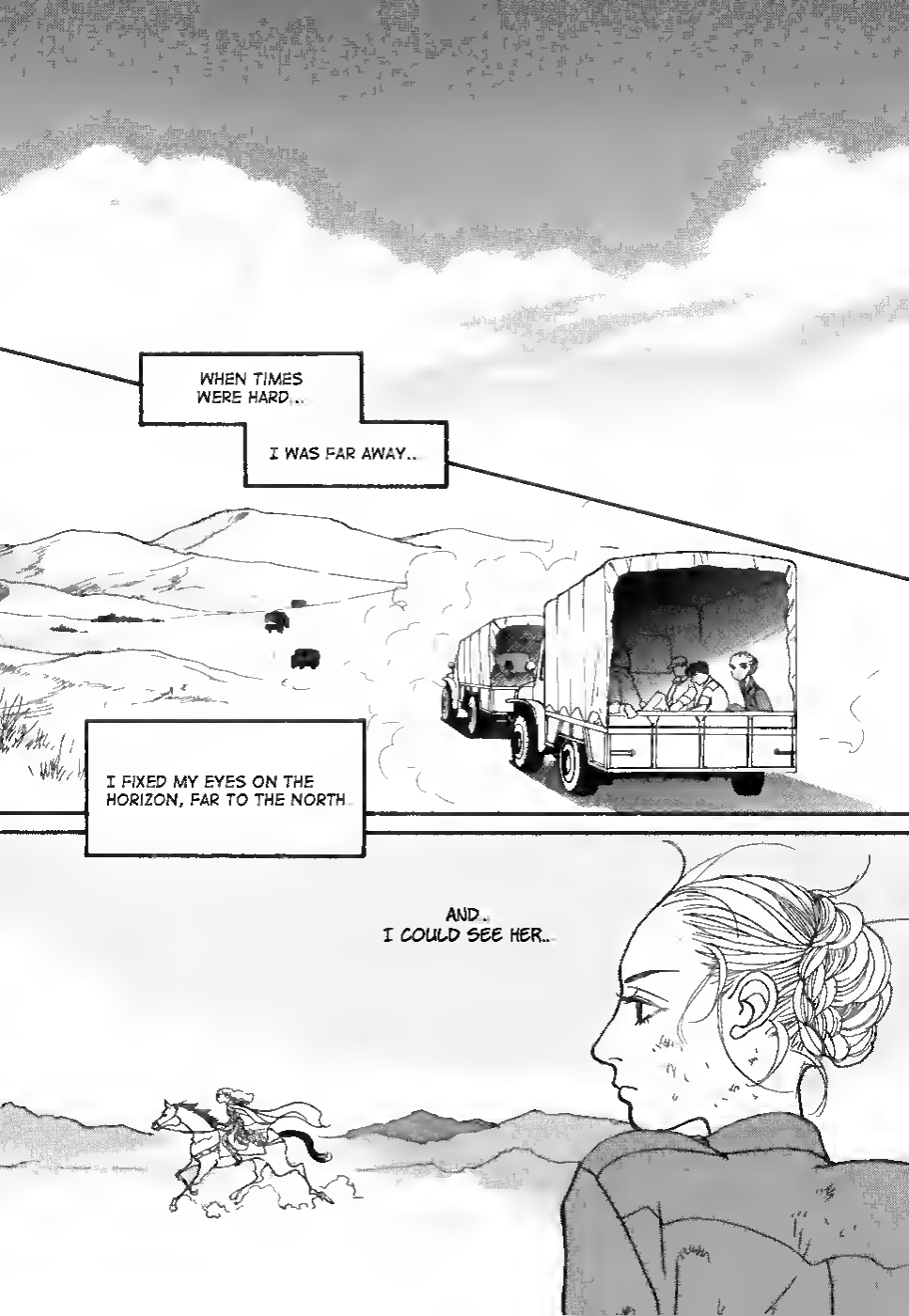
SFX: SQUEAK





I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE STATION
IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY. I'D RATHER WALK TO THE BUS STATION BY MYSELF.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU
TO PRISCILLA?

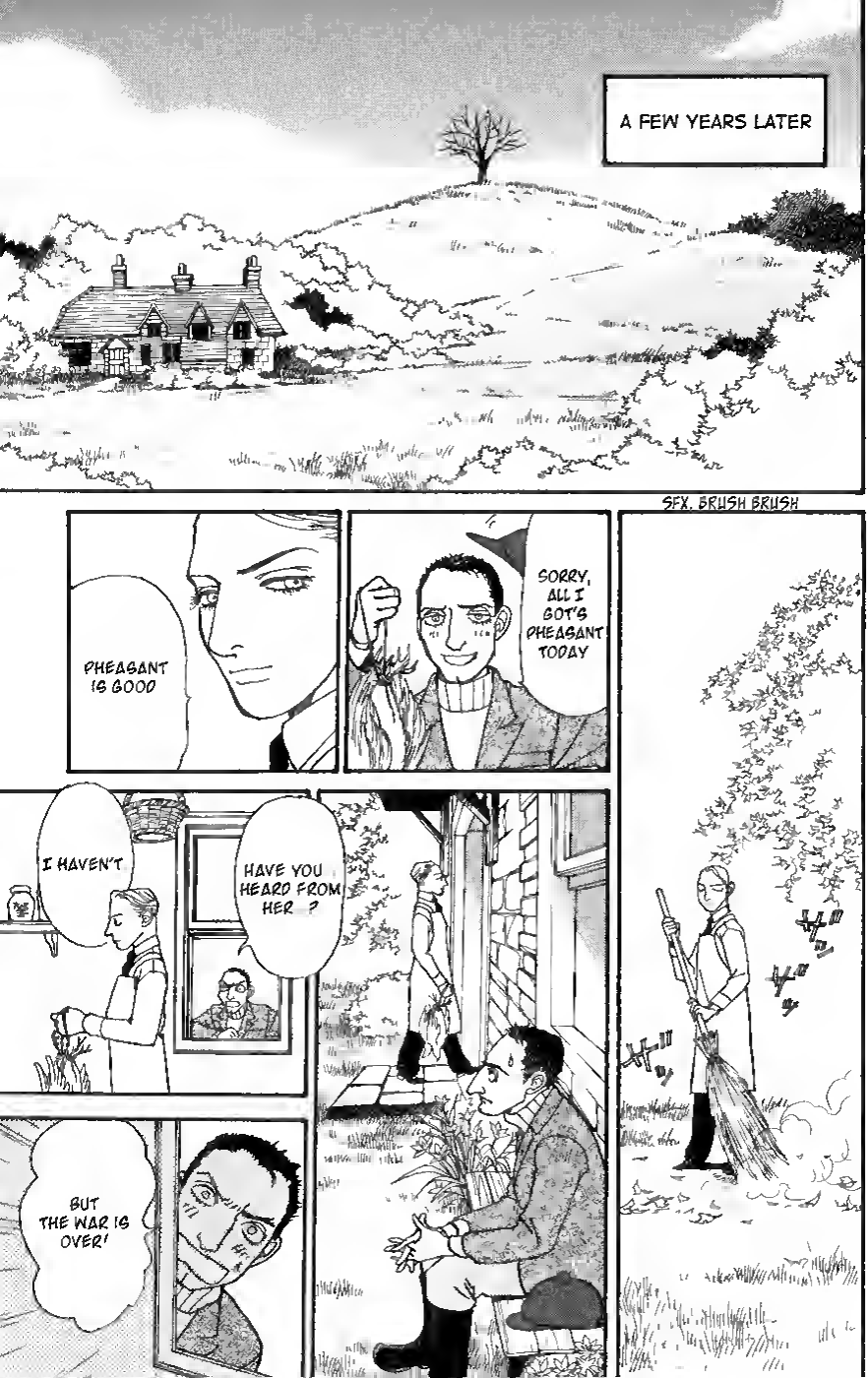
SEE HER... THROUGH WHAT...?
SEE HER THROUGH?
I AM THE ONE
WHO WILL "SEE HER THROUGH"


WHEN TIMES WERE HARD...
I WAS FAR AWAY...
I FIXED MY EYES ON THE HORIZON, FAR TO THE NORTH...
AND.
I COULD SEE HER...

WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS SHE?
JUST AS SHE WAS, LONG, LONG AGO...
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M TRYING TO OUTRUN SOMETHING...
SOMETHING... IN MY OWN DESTINY...

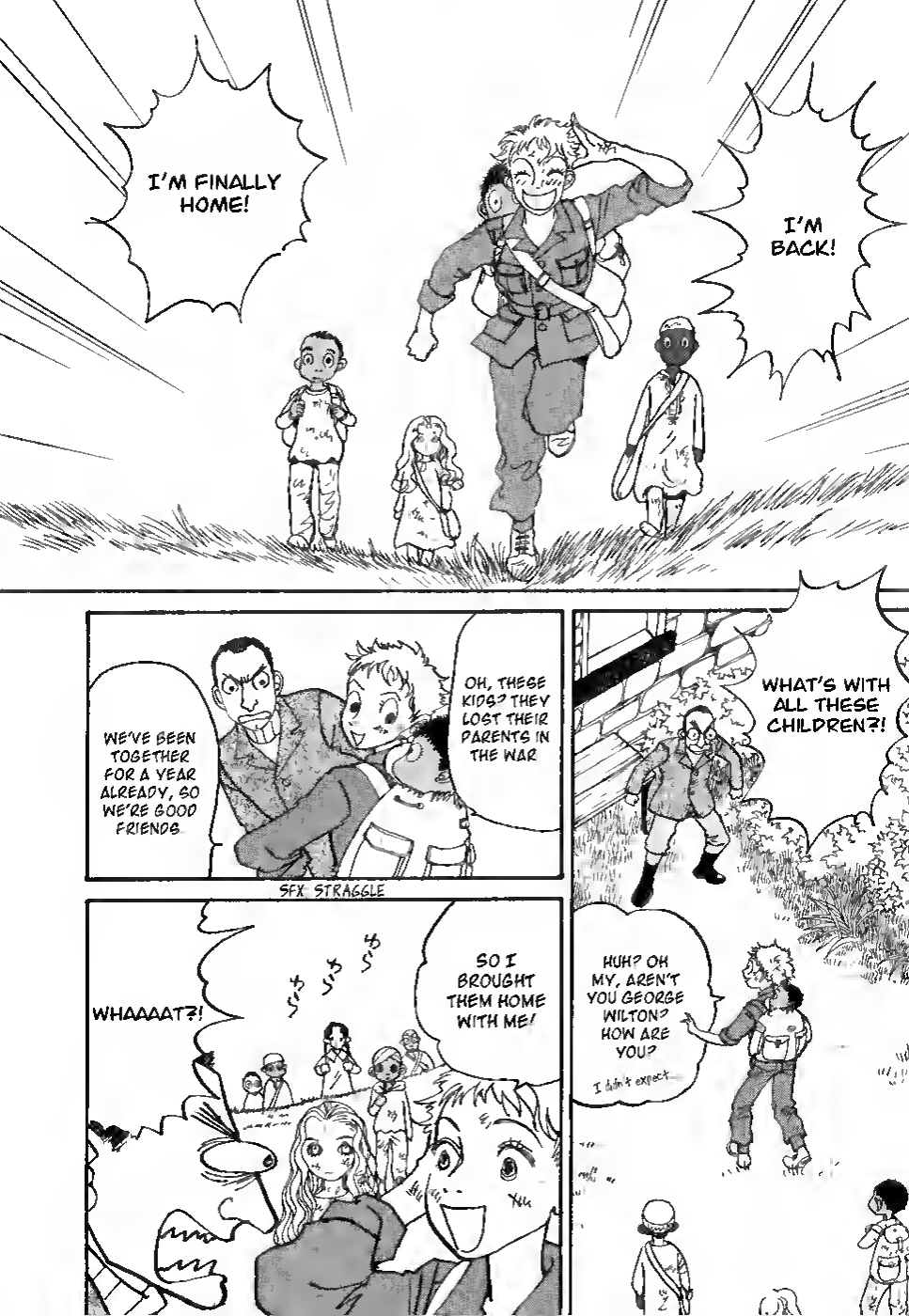
I THOUGHT THAT YOU'D RETURNED TO AMERICA?
SO THIS IS THE HOUSE PRISCILLA PICKED UP AFTER SHE THREW AWAY THE MANOR.
YIP
OH! WELL... NO... I JUST...
LONG TIME NO SEE.
YIP
HERE.
A LETTER FROM MISS PRIS-CILLA
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO READ IT?
THAT'S THE IDEA. THERE'S NOTHING TERRIBLY PERSONAL.
OH, SHALL I COOK UP THAT RABBIT?
WHA-!

MAKE A STEW OR SOME-THING?
SHALL I
SFX FLUTTER
THE BREEZE IS WARM TODAY..
OH ! YEAH
HUH?
PERHAPS.. IT'S BLOWING IN FROM AFRICA.


A FEW YEARS LATER
SFX. BRUSH BRUSH
PHEASANT IS GOOD
SORRY, ALL I GOT'S PHEASANT TODAY
I HAVEN'T
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM HER ?
BUT THE WAR IS OVER!

WE'RE LIVING IN A WORLD THAT HAS NO NEED OF NOBLES.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
NO... WELL... I MEAN, I'VE TAKEN UP HER LAND AND ALL...
ARE YOU SO EAGER TO SEE HER?
I... LOST THE MONEY THROUGH BAD BUSINESS AND GAMBLING...
TO TELL THE TRUTH...
IS THAT SO...
PROB-LEM?
MISS PRISCILLA WON'T MIND.
SHE'LL BE GLAD TO TACKLE A NEW PROBLEM.

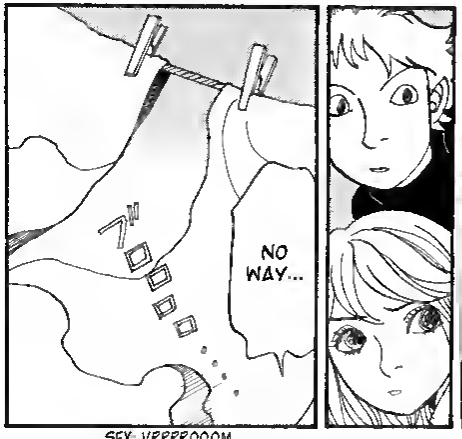
SOME-ONE'S COMING
WILL YOU GO SEE WHO IT IS?
AHHH!!


I'M FINALLY HOME!
I'M BACK!
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A YEAR ALREADY, SO WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS
OH, THESE KIDS? THEY LOST THEIR PARENTS IN THE WAR
SFX: STRAGGLE
WHAAAAT?!
SO I BROUGHT THEM HOME WITH ME!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE CHILDREN?!
HUH? OH MY, AREN'T YOU GEORGE WILTON? HOW ARE YOU?
I didn't expect

...HOW ABOUT IT, CHRIS?
THIS ISN'T LIKE PICKING UP STRAY CATS!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO RAISE THEM, DID I?
AS YOU LIKE, MY LADY.
SORRY TO SPRING THIS ON YOU!

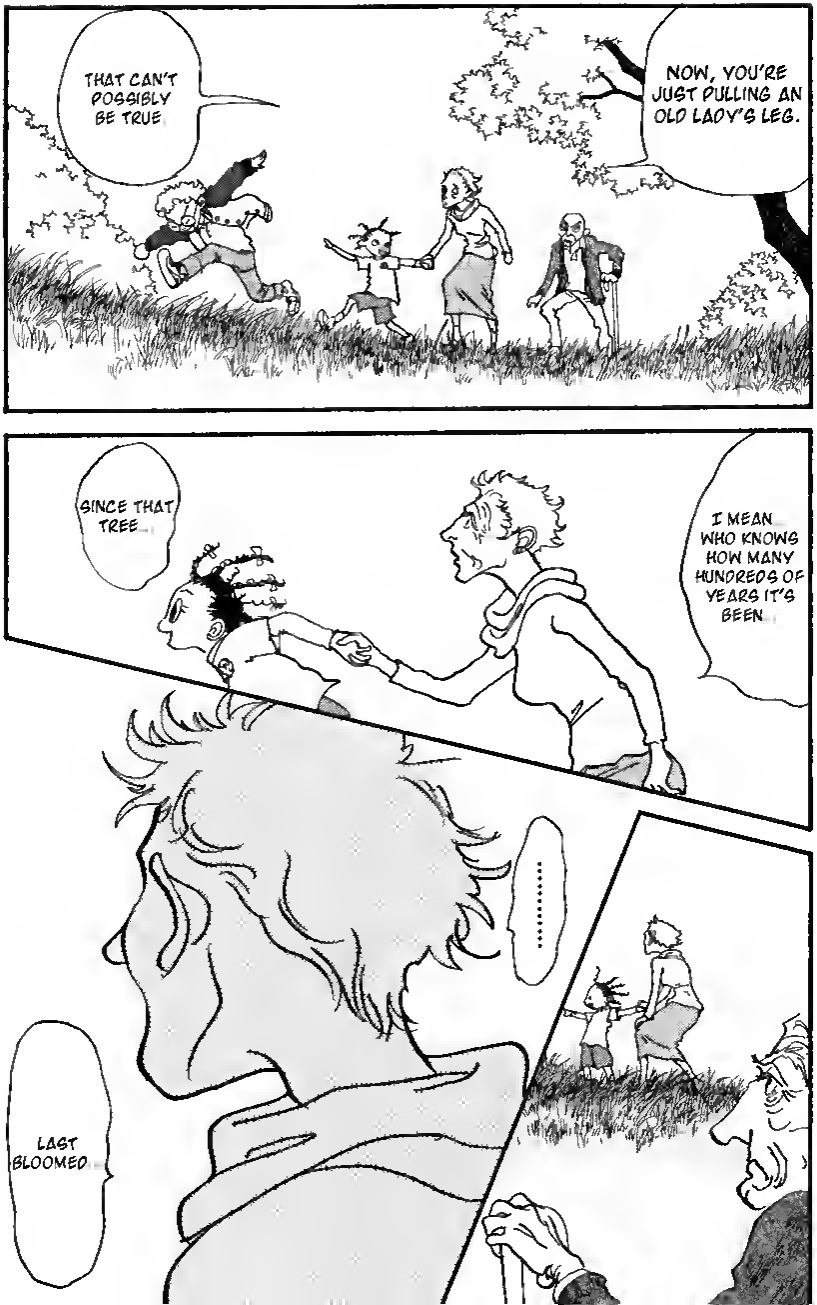
AND THEN... SOME DECADES LATER...
SFX: VRRRROOOM
HUH?
TAXI
SIR, MISS
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT FAMILY IS NOW?
WHAT A WONDERFUL HOTEL THAT WAS!
OF COURSE! THIS USED TO BE AN ANCIENT AND NOBLE FAMILY'S COUNTRY HOUSE
LOOK THERE

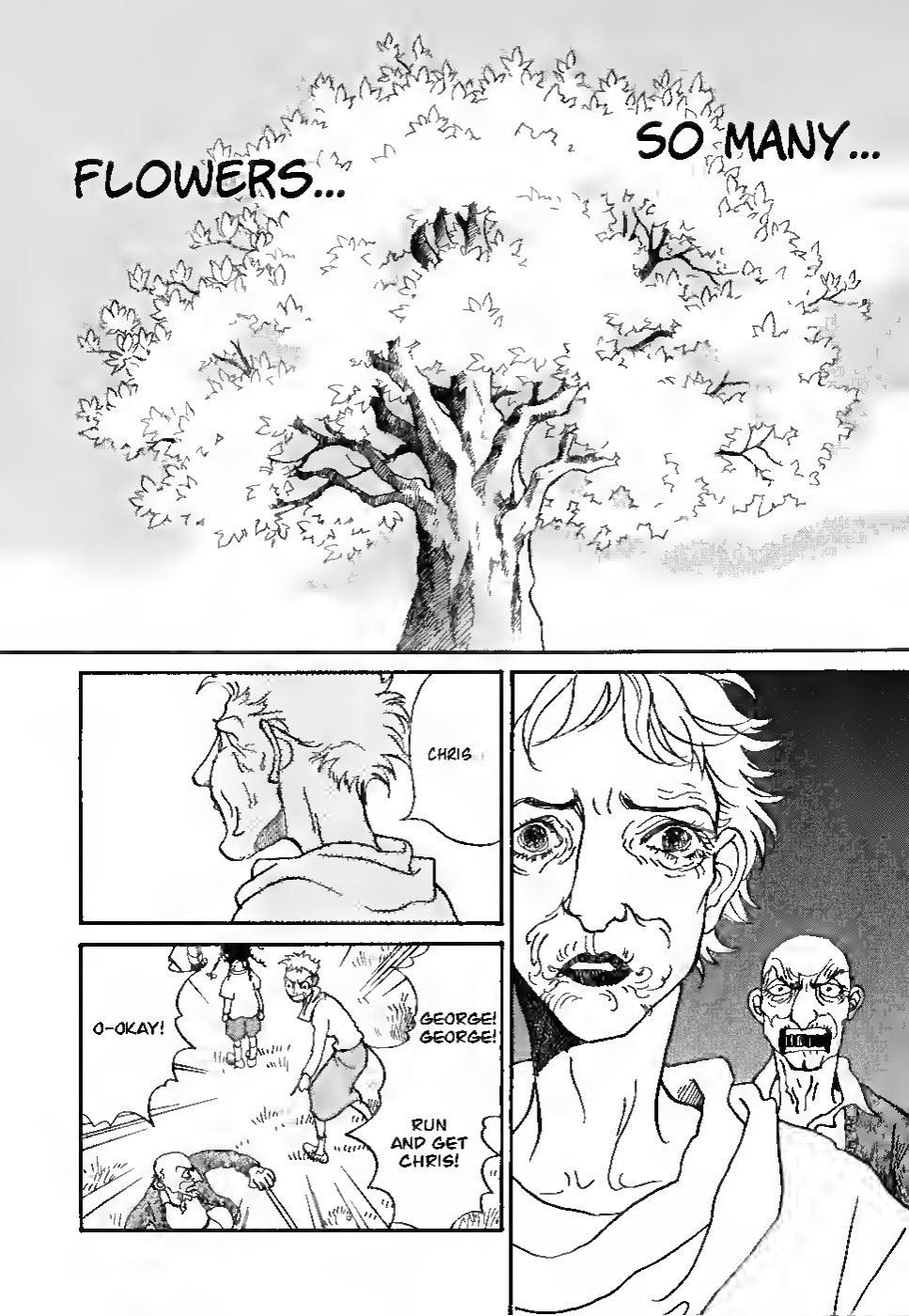
THE OLD LADY'S FAMOUS 'ROUND THESE PARTS.
SHE WAS AN ONLY CHILD, AND HAD NO CHILDREN HERSELF. SHE DOESN'T ASK ANYTHING FROM ANYBODY, JUST SCRATCHES OUT HER OWN LIVING IN THAT HOUSE.
THAT MANOR YOU STAYED IN LAST NIGHT? SHE USED TO OWN IT



SFX: VRRRROOOM

KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK
うぉっ
SFX FLAP
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
HM?


THAT CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TRUE.
NOW, YOU'RE JUST PULLING AN OLD LADY'S LEG.
SINCE THAT TREE...
I MEAN... WHO KNOWS HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF YEARS IT'S BEEN...
.....
LAST BLOOMED...


FLOWERS...
SO MANY...
CHRIS
O-OKAY!
GEORGE! GEORGE!
RUN AND GET CHRIS!

I've seen everything
I wanted to see.
Chris.

不思議な少年 3

ふしぎしょうねん

A Wonder Boy

『不思議な少年』第3巻は
別冊モーニング2004年2号、3号、
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この物語はフィクションです。
登場する全ての人名・地名・団体名等は実在のものと一切関係ありません。

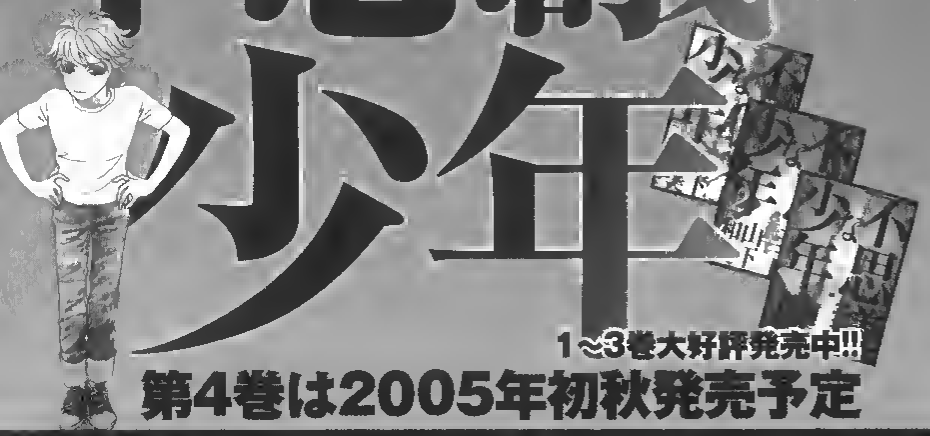
終戦直後の日本に生きる家族を縛る「血」と「土地」。
19世紀末のロンドンを懸命に生きる身寄りのない少女。
生きる目的を知らぬまま戦国乱世を駆け抜けた一人の青年。
戦後の日本、神に愛された声を持つ悲しき男。
その飽くなき探究心で、死をも知ろうとする古代ギリシャの哲学者。
遥かな未来。人からも神からも忘れられた土地に、二人きりで静かに生きた夫婦。
無罪を主張する青年と妻を介護する老人が起こす、百万年に一度の奇跡。
変わらない日常に、感覚が麻痺した現代のサラリーマン一家。
もが未踏の地に憧れた、探検家の活躍著しい時代に南極で遭難した二人の男。
から100年ほどの、時代の変わり目を生きた貴族エッジャー家の少女

その少年が見つめる先には、「人間」の真実がある——。

「天才 柳沢教授の生活」の山下和美の渾身のライフワーク

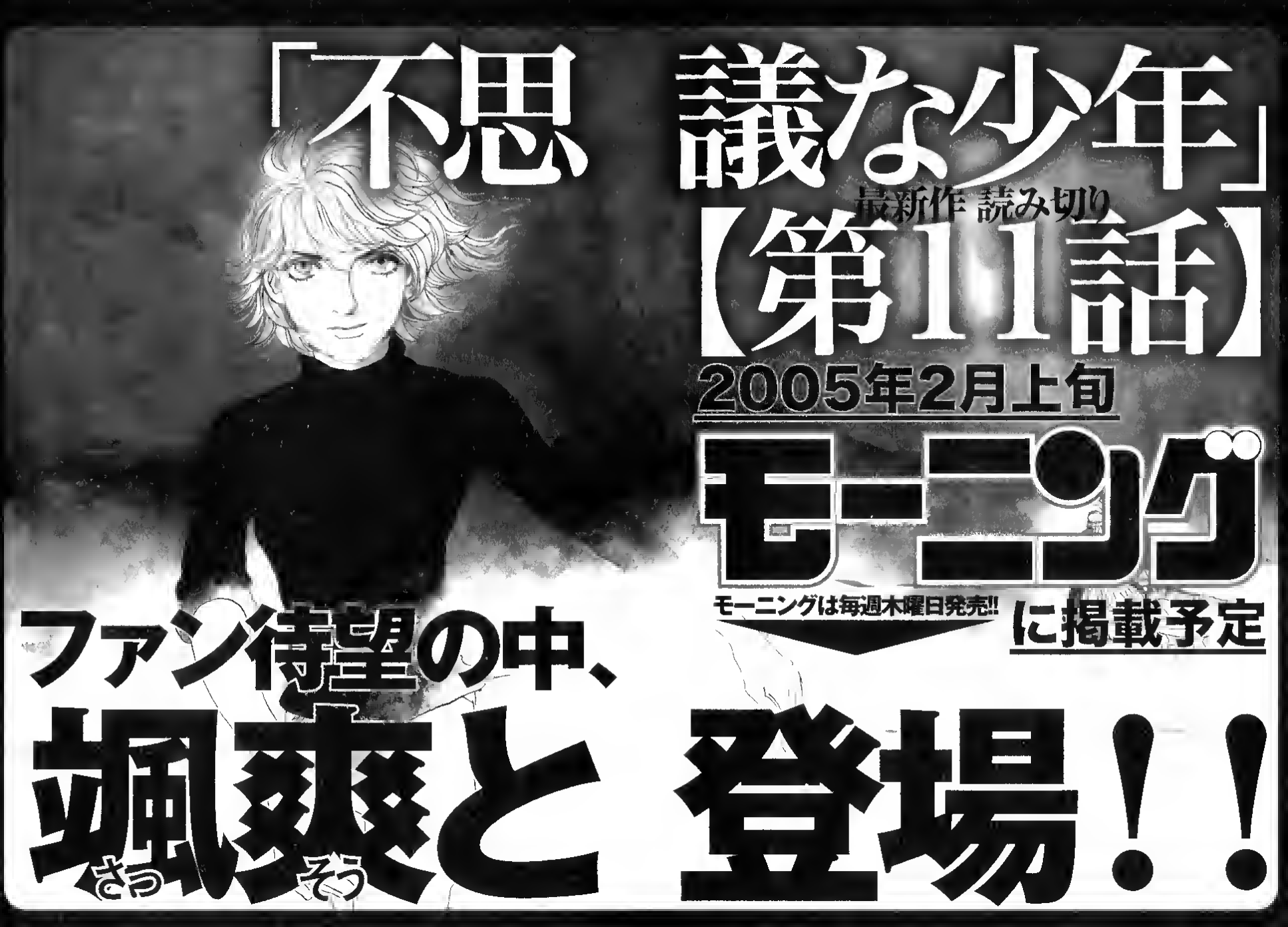
モーニングKC

不思議な少年



1〜3巻大好評発売中!!

第4巻は2005年初秋発売予定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最新作 読み切り
【第11話】
2005年2月上旬
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に掲載予定
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ファン待望の中、
颯爽と登場!!

コンパクトな漫画文庫で「教授」が読める!!

若き柳沢教授が見出したのは、

前へ進んでいくための希望の光。

昭和20年――
ひょんなことから戦災孤児たちを集めた
学校の教壇にたつことになった柳沢は、
[illegible]
会社を作ることを提案する。
売り上げは上がるが、闇市を取り仕切っている
講談組に儲けをさらわれてしまった。
その時、柳沢は今の商売よりも、
もっと凄いものを発見する!!

漫画文庫
山下和美
天才 柳沢教授の生活
1〜11巻大絶賛発売中!!(以下続刊)
昭和20年編クライマックス!!
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